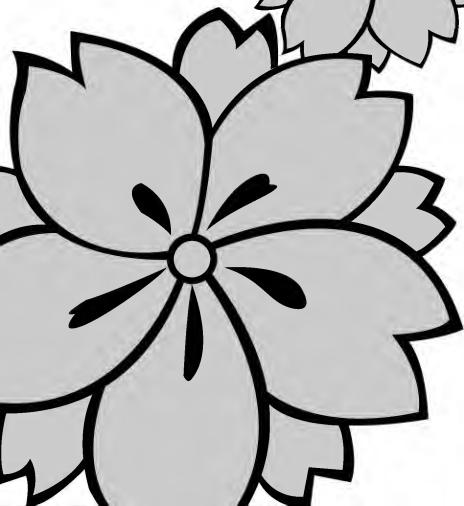
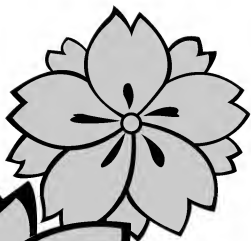


9

Yozakura Quartet

Suzuhito
Yasuda

YOZAKURA
QUARTET 9



A RAMBUNCTIOUS, MOODY, NOODLE-LOVING, SCARF-CLAD DEMON HIGH SCHOOLER AND THE MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN. LATELY, SHE'S STARTED LEARNING HOW TO COOK IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. EVEN SO, IT SEEMS SHE STILL LOVES AKINA'S COOKING THE MOST.



**HIME
YARIZAKURA**



**AKINA
HIIZUMI**

THE DIRECTOR OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. AS ABOUT 20% OF HIS WORKDAY GOES INTO MAKING FOOD FOR HIME AND HIS EMPLOYEES, HE'S OFTEN IN THE OFFICE VERY LATE.

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

YOZAKURA QUARTET

CHARACTER
PROFILE

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE'S AS MUCH OF A RICE FANATIC AS HIME IS A NOODLE FANATIC. THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN BY "TWO GREAT RIVALS CANNOT COEXIST."



**AO
NANAMI**

**KOTOHA
ISONE**



A PART-TIME WORKER AT THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE WEARS GLASSES, IS INTO GIRLS, AND HAS BIG BOOBS, AMONG OTHER CLICHES, BUT SHE ALSO HAS THE MOST REFRESHING PERSONALITY.

HIME'S ASSISTANT AND OVERSEER (BABYSITTER). HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF BOTH HIME AND TOUKA, SO HIS DAYS ARE FILLED WITH STRESS.



**KYOSUKE
KISHI**



**TOUKA
KISHI**

KYOSUKE'S YOUNGER SISTER AND THE FAIRER HALF OF THE TWO ONI SIBLINGS. THAT SAID, SHE LEADS THE MOST NORMAL LIFE, AS BEFITTING A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL. SHE USED TO DO ARCHERY, BUT NOW PRACTICES AIKIDO.

THE LAND GOD OF SAKURASHIN.
SHE CAN OFTEN BE SEEN LOITERING
AROUND TOWN, SO SHE'S NOT THE
MOST DIGNIFIED DEITY.



**YAE
SHINATSUHIKO**

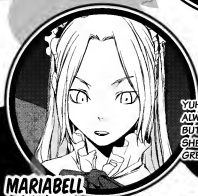
THE DISTRICT MAYOR WHO COORDINATES
THE TOWNS. HE IS ALSO A LAND GOD.
DEEP DOWN, HE IS A PERVERTED
OLD MAN.



**YUI
SHINATSUHIKO**



JURI A DEMON DOCTOR AND TOWN
ICON. SHE HAS BEEN
ABSTAINING FROM SHOW
BUSINESS LATELY.



MARIABELL

YUI'S SECRETARY. SHE IS
ALWAYS ORDERED TO COSPLAY,
BUT SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT.
SHE IS ALSO JURI'S GREAT-
GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER.

A JIANGSHI WHO WORKS AT A RAMEN RESTAURANT.
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS SLACKING OFF, BUT
SHE'S SURPRISINGLY DILIGENT. WAS KIDNAPPED
BUT RETURNED SAFELY.



**RIN
AZUMA**

**SHIDOU
MIZUKI**



HE IS A COP, BUT EVERYONE TENDS
TO FORGET THAT FACT. HE IS BUSY
WATCHING OVER MINA AND KANA.



**KANA
TATEBAYASHI**

**MINA
TATEBAYASHI**

TWINS WHO ARE MERMAID-VAMPIRE
HYBRIDS. THEY GROW WHEN THEY
IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN WATER.



**ENJIN
HIIZUMI**



RIN'S FORMER MASTER AND A NECROMANCER, SHE
ATTACKED SAKURASHIN IN ORDER TO TAKE BACK RIN
BUT WAS THWARTED AND REFORMED.

A DESCENDANT OF ENYOU HIIZUMI. HE TOOK OVER
THE BODY OF GIN, AO'S OLDER BROTHER, AND HE
IS PLANNING TO MAKE THE SEVEN PILLARS BLOOM
IN ORDER TO MERGE THE TWO DIMENSIONS.



**USUZUMI
IYO**

SENATE



**UZU
KIBUNE**



**SHIDARE
MORIOKA**

OUTLINE

AMIDST THE RETURN OF PEACEFUL—OR, RATHER, LAZY—
DAYS, A WITCH APPEARS WITH A HOW-DO-YOU-DO. WAIT,
WASN'T SHE WITH ENJIN BEFORE...? THEN DOESN'T THAT
MAKE HER A DEMON HUNTER?!



YOZAKURA QUARTET

C O N T E N T S

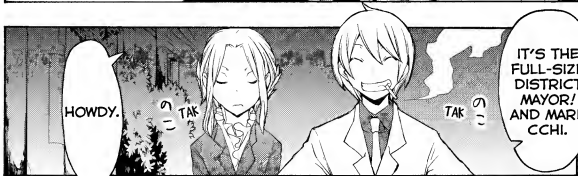


007	SONG OF FLOWERS (PART 2)
039	SONG OF FLOWERS (PART 3)
073	SONG OF FLOWERS (PART 4)
107	SONG OF FLOWERS (PART 5)
156	SONG OF FLOWERS (PART 6)
197	SONG OF FLOWERS (EPILOGUE)
226	EXTRAS



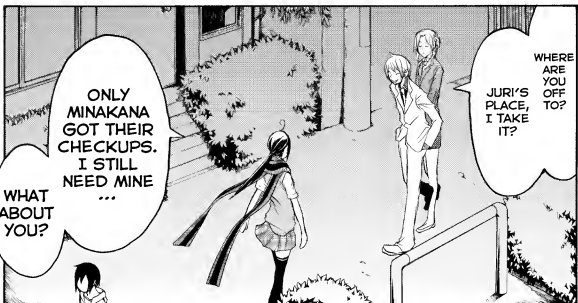


OH!



HOWDY.

IT'S THE
FULL-SIZE
DISTRICT
MAYOR!
AND MARI-
CCHI.



ONLY
MINAKANA
GOT THEIR
CHECKUPS.
I STILL
NEED MINE
...

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

WHERE
ARE
YOU
OFF
TO?

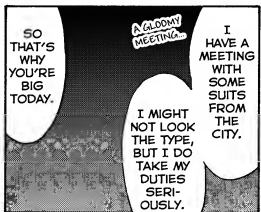
JURI'S
PLACE,
I TAKE
IT?



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
BEING
SMALL?

GOTTA
STAND
TALL
WHEN I
LEAVE
THE DIS-
TRICT, AT
LEAST.

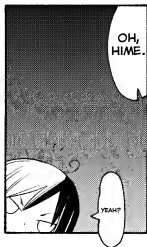
CAN'T
SMOKE
OTHER-
WISE,
EITHER.

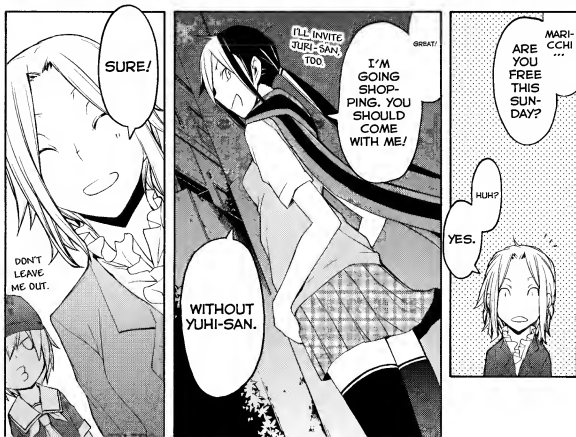
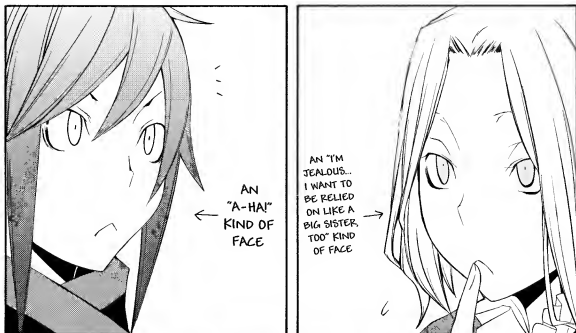


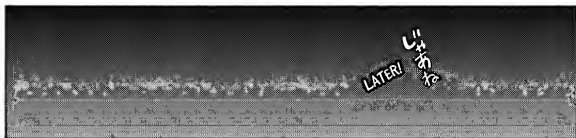
SO
THAT'S
WHY
YOU'RE
BIG
TODAY.

I
HAVE A
MEETING
WITH
SOME
SUITS
FROM
THE CITY.

I MIGHT
NOT LOOK
THE TYPE,
BUT I DO
TAKE MY
DUTIES
SERIOUSLY.









...ANOTHER
LONG NIGHT
IS ABOUT
TO BEGIN.



45TH NIGHT SONG OF FLOWERS (PART TWO)





MISTER?

WHY
THE
LONG
FACE,

FU
FU
FU
...



DID
YOU HAVE
A FIGHT
WITH YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND?

OH,
MY.

WELL,
WELL,
WELL.

WITH
MY
SIS-
TER,
ACTU-
ALLY.

OH,
NO...

A
FLO-
RIST?





A...
MAGIC
TRICK?

I'LL
GIVE YOU
SOME
SPECIAL
SERVICE
SINCE
YOU'RE
SO HAND-
SOME.

I
ASSURE
YOU.

FWOOO

THERE
ARE NO
TRICKS,
NO GIM-
MICKS.

× × ×
× × ×
× × ×
RABBLE
RABBLE

ぽかーん
DAZED

〇〇〇〇〇H
1/10 ♪ CLAP
1/10 ♪ CLAP





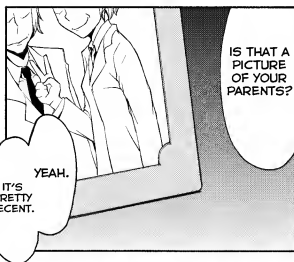
WELL,
IF YOU
SAY
SO...

YOU
SHOULD
BE FINE
IF YOU
HAVE AN
APPETITE.

IT WASN'T
A PARTICULARLY
BAD COLD,
ANYWAY.



TAKE
CARE OF
JURI,
HUH?



IS THAT A
PICTURE OF
YOUR PARENTS?

YEAH.
IT'S
PRETTY
RECENT.



SOME-
THING
WRONG?

OH...
IT'S
NOTHING.



HMM?

MMM
...

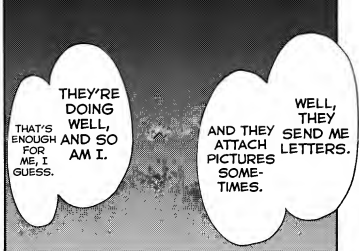
YOU
HAVEN'T
GONE
BACK TO
ENGLAND
IN YEARS,
RIGHT?
DO YOU
EVER
MISS
THEM?



I
CHECK
MY
MOM'S
BLOG
SOME-
TIMES,
TOO.

HOW
TRENDY!

HER
BLOG
?!



THEY'RE
DOING
WELL,
AND SO
AM I.

THAT'S
ENOUGH
FOR
ME, I
GUESS.

WELL,
THEY
SEND ME
LETTERS.
AND THEY
ATTACH
PICTURES
SOME-
TIMES.



DIDN'T
YOUR
PAR-
ENTS
...?

YEAH.



GRAND-
MA'S NOT
AROUND
ANYMORE
...

...SO I
SOME-
TIMES
WONDER
WHAT
HAVING A
FAMILY IS
LIKE.



WELL,
THAT'S
GOOD.

I
SEE
...

~
~
CREAK



IT
AFFECTED
AO AND
KOTOHA,
TOO.

WELL, IT
WASN'T
JUST MY
PARENTS.

THE
HOLLOW
GENERATION.



IT FEELS
WRONG
HOW
DO I
PUT
IT?
TO SAY
I MISS
THEM.

THAT
BEING SAID,
I DON'T
REMEMBER
MY PARENTS
AT ALL.

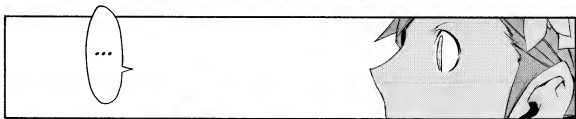


I STILL
DON'T
REALLY
GET IT.

WHAT DID
THEY HOPE
TO ENTRUST
TO OUR
GENERATION?

...I
WONDER
WHAT
CAUSED MY
DAD AND
THE OTHERS
TO MAKE
THAT
DECISION
THAT DAY.

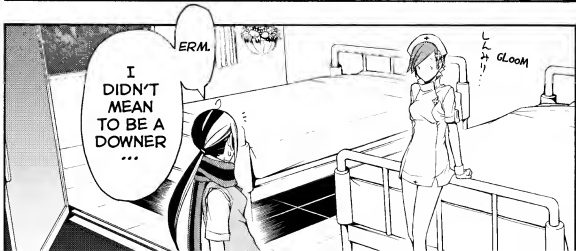
SOME-
TIMES
...



I
DIDN'T
MEAN
TO BE A
DOWNER
...

ERM.

しんみり
Gloom





THEN
THERE'S
YAE-SAN,
MARI-
CCHI,
AND YOU,
JURI-
SAN.

THOUGH
SOME-
TIMES
AO ACTS
LIKE MY
MOM...

I MEAN,
I HAVE
KYOSUKE
AND TOUKA
WAITING
FOR ME
AT HOME.
AND AO
AND RIN
ARE LIKE
LITTLE
SISTERS
TO ME.



I HAVE
A LOT
OF BIG
SIS-
TERS,
TOO.

THINGS
ARE TOO
LIVELY
FOR ME
TO BE
LONELY!



OKAY!

CREAK



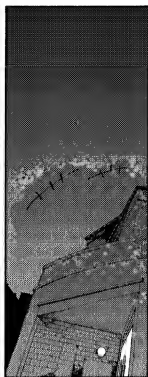
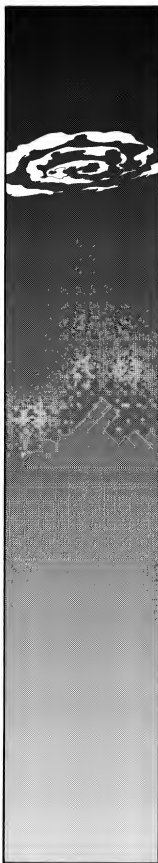
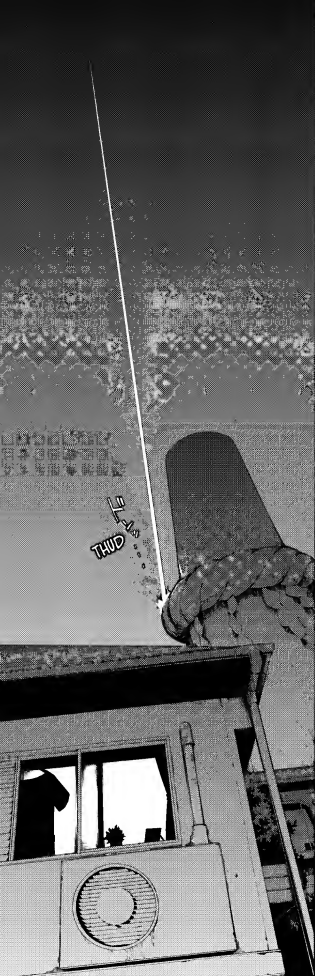
I'M
HUN-
GRY.

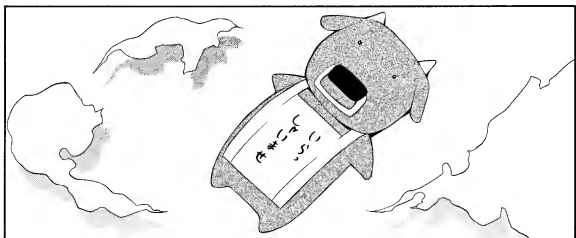
GUESS
I'LL
HEAD
HOME.

RUMBLE



*An idiom meaning someone has done something to work out in your favor.





Sign: Welcome!





BUT
I'LL TAKE
TOTAL
CONTROL
BEFORE
TOO
LONG!

THIS
BODY IS
STILL ONLY
HALF MINE,
SO MY
POWER IS
HALVED,
TOO.



I
SURE
HAVE
COME A
WAYS.

PHEW.
THAT
WAS A
LONG
FALL.

...THIS
WORLD
WILL BE
IN THE
PALM-

ONCE I
FULLY
DEMON-
IZE THIS
BODY...



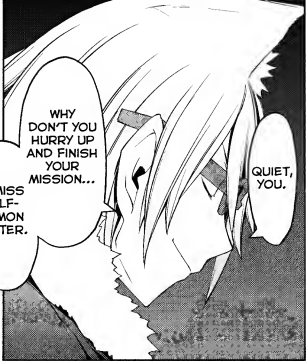
SURE IS
CROWDED.

SO,
THIS
IS THE
OTHER
DIMEN-
SION...

OOPS.

ENOUGH
WITH THE
VOICE-
OVER.





WHY
DON'T YOU
HURRY UP
AND FINISH
YOUR
MISSION...

...MISS
HALF-
DEMON
HUNTER.

QUIET,
YOU.



I
COULDN'T
HELP IT.

SORRY.

IT'S
JUST SO
ADORABLE
TO SEE A
GROWN MAN
PLAY WITH
DOLLS.



FU
FU
...
HALF-
DEMON,
HM?



ARE
YOU
ONE TO
TALK?

NOW,
NOW.



WHY
DON'T
YOU ALL
COME
DOWN AT
ONCE?

INSTEAD
OF TRICK-
LING IN
ONE BY
ONE,



YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
REMIND
ME.

PREPARA-
TIONS
ARE IM-
PORTANT,
NO?

HMPH.

YOU
HUNTERS
SURE ARE
A LAX
BUNCH.



WHAT'S
INTRIGUING
IS YOUR
DROPPING
POWER...

WE DIDN'T
AGREE TO YOUR
PLAN WITHOUT ANY
RENUMERATION
IN MIND.

...IS NONE
OTHER THAN
WHAT IS
OBTAINED
AFTER
FALLING A
SECOND
TIME.
COMPLETE
DEMONIC
POWER.

WHAT WE
DESIRE
...



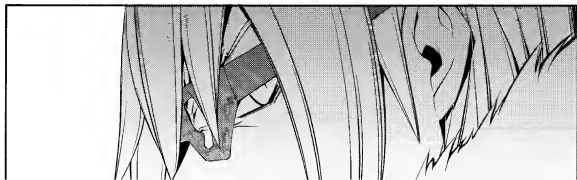
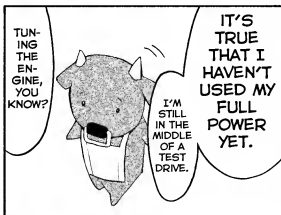
...TO DO
THINGS IN
A HURRY.

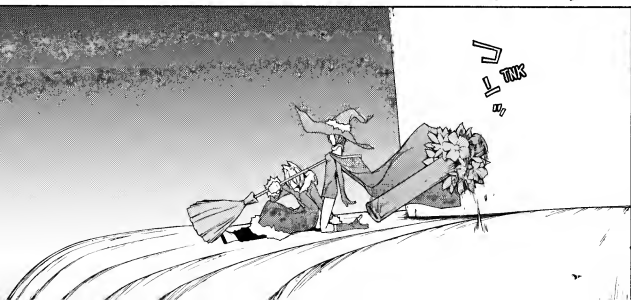
DON'T
FORGET
YOU'RE
NOT AC-
CLIMATED
ENOUGH
TO THIS
WORLD...

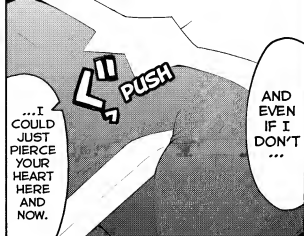
YOU
BLUFF!

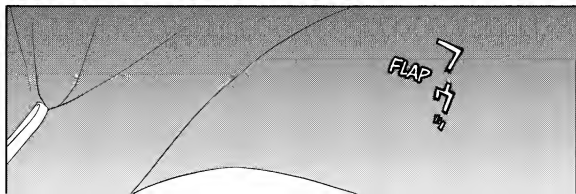
OH
HO
HO
HO
HO!

THEN
BRING
YOUR
FRIENDS,
ALREADY.
CALL
THE
WHOLE
GANG.











TOOO
BAD.



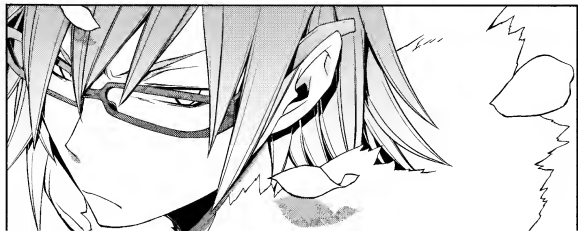
MAGIC?

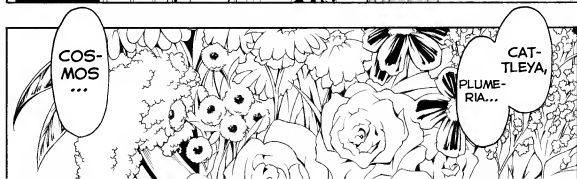
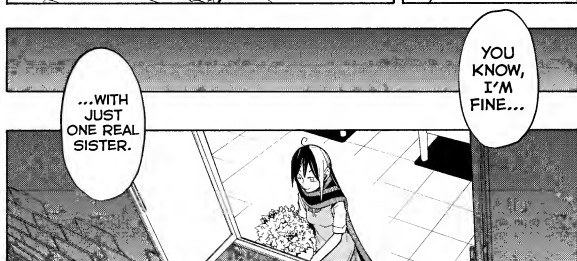
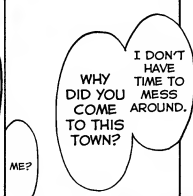
SOME
SORT
OF
SPELL?

HMPH
...

FU
FU
FU
FU
FU
...

OR A
SIMPLE
TRICK?







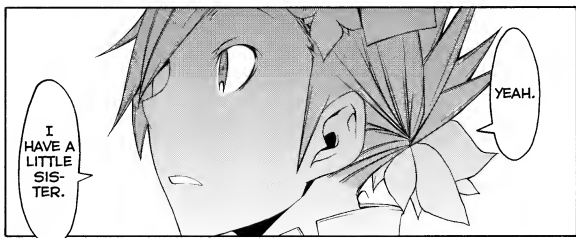
DO YOU
HAVE ANY
SIBLINGS?

HUH?



I'LL
DO
THAT.

OH,
YEAH.
SAY,
JURI-
SAN.



I
HAVE A
LITTLE
SIS-
TER.

YEAH.



I
GUESS
THAT'S
WRONG.

NO
...

WELL
...



NO
WONDER
SHE'S SO
NICE TO
ME.

RE-
ALLY?
HMM.



I HAD
A LITTLE
SISTER.

I
SHOULD
SAY...



...WHEN
WE WERE
KIDS.



SHE
DIED...



SHE CHANGES THEM EVERY DAY.

LOOK,
ONEE-
SAMA!

LOOK,
LOOK!

RIGHT
?!

SEE?
THIS
IS THE
CARD YOU
PICKED,
RIGHT?

YOU
GOT
IT.

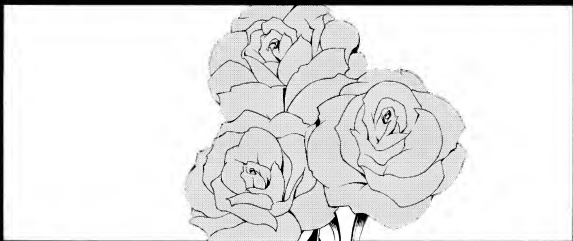
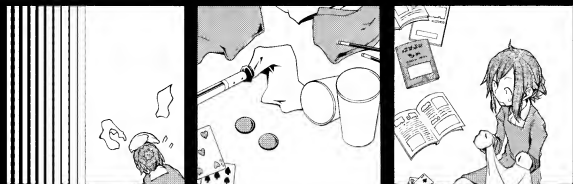
UH-
HUH.

I
HAVE TO
STUDY...

DOOM
↓

ERM
...
THAT'S
IT?!

...







...TO
SHEER
TERROR.

MY
REACTIONS
TO HER
EXCESSIVE
TRICKS
CHANGED
FROM
AMAZEMENT...

ONEE-
SAMA?



I
TRIED TO
REJECT
THAT.

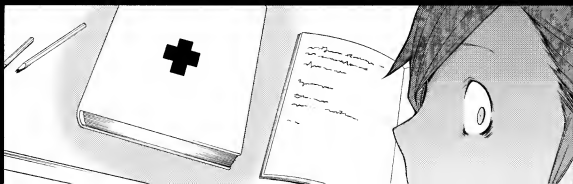


BUT ONE
DAY, MY
FEAR
SHIFTED...



...TO
BEYOND
JUST THE
TRICKS.





LIKE
A JET-
BLACK
ROSE.

...AND
THORNY.

...WAS
BOTH
HEAVY
...



HER
LOVE...

I WAS
AFRAID
OF HER
LOVE.

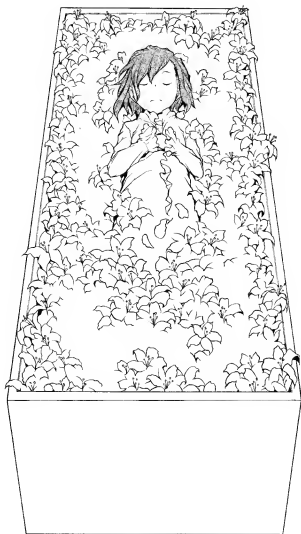
OR, SHOULD
I SAY,
TURNED INTO
SOMETHING
THAT WOULD
NEVER GO
AWAY...

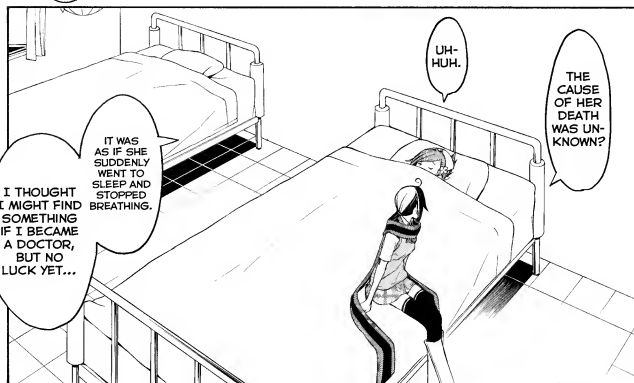
BUT
MY FEAR
SOON
DISAP-
PEARED.

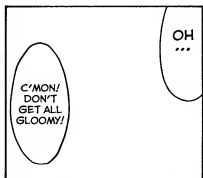
WHY,
YOU
ASK?

*BECAUSE
ONE
DAY...*

*...SHE
DEPARTED
FROM THIS
WORLD
OUT OF
THE BLUE.*







OH ...

I WANTED YOU TO LISTEN BECAUSE IT'S AN IMPORTANT MEMORY TO ME.



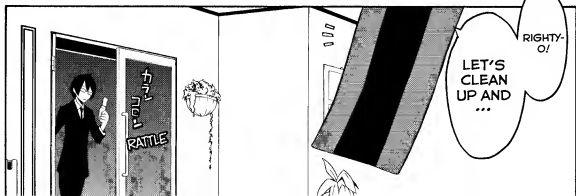
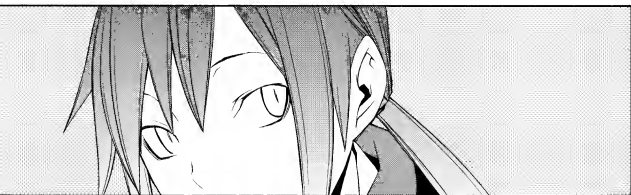
AND NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I CAN'T BRING MY SISTER BACK.

I'M ALIVE NOW,



I'VE MADE A LOT OF LITTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THIS TOWN!

AS I SAID, THE PRESENT IS NOW! I'M NOT LONELY AT ALL.



RIGHTY-O!

LET'S CLEAN UP AND ...



LIKE
THEY'RE
USED
TO THE
SUPER-
NATURAL
...

IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED IN
THIS KIND
OF TOWN,
BUT THE
RESIDENTS
AREN'T
AFRAID OF
GHOSTS
AND THE
LIKE, HUH?



ばた
たTMP

ばた
たTMP

ばた
たTMP



TAMO?

BUT CAN
WE REALLY
CATCH A
GHOST
WITH A
TAMO*?

WHAT'S
A TAMO*?

FWOO

WHAAA?
REALLY?

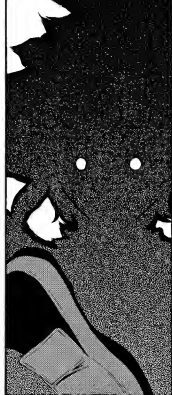
OVER
THERE!
I SAW IT
WEAVE
THAT
WAY!

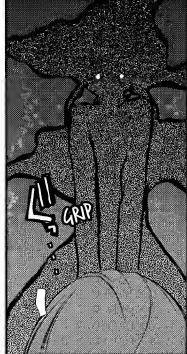
I
SAW IT,
TOO!

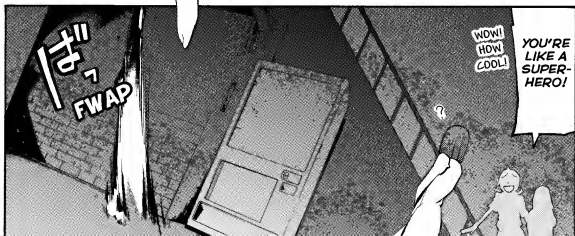
ばた
たGLOMP

どた
たGLOMP

*Net used for catching
bugs or fish.













WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO ON ALERT.

I'LL CALL AKINA-SAN.

ARE YOU HURT? LET'S GET YOU TO JURI'S.

the ugo
clack
clack



I WAS SO SCARED!

YOU ALL RIGHT, MIDORIKO?

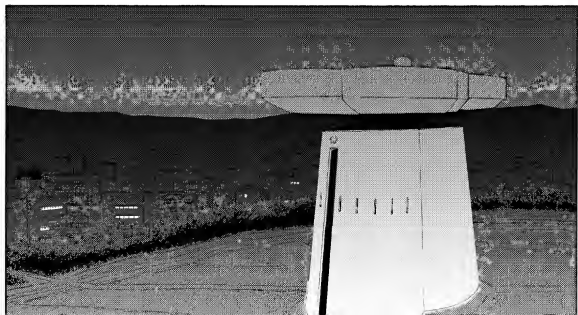


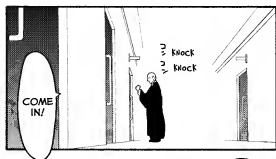
EARLI-
ER?

MAN, WE GOT SCOLDED EARLIER, TOO.

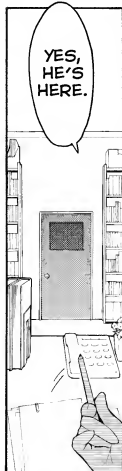
SOR-
RY!

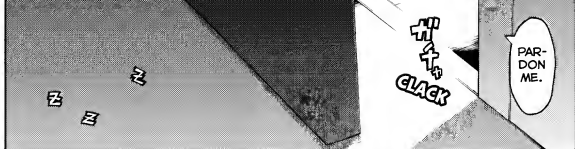
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING OUT SO LATE, ANYHOW?
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T GO HOME EARLY!





Sign: First Onmyodo Research Room.





UNDER-
STAND-
ABLE.

...NOT
STAND
IN THE
SPOT-
LIGHT.

I PREFER
TO STICK
TO MY
RESEARCH
...

I'M NOT
SUITED
FOR THAT
KINDA
STUFF.

TRUE
ENOUGH.

THIS IS
YOUR
GREATEST
TALENT.

AS FAR
AS THE
SENATE
IS CONCERNED,

IT
WOULDN'T
BE AN
UNDER-
STATEMENT
TO SAY
THAT,

"IT IS
VITAL TO
ACKNOW-
LEDGE ONE'S
WEAKNESS-
ES..."

I'M A
GROWN MAN.
I KNOW
WHERE MY
SKILLS LIE.

YOU
DON'T
DENY
IT?

BUT, IN
A WAY,
THE SAME
COULD BE
SAID FOR
YOU, UZU.

I
MIGHT BE
COOPED UP
IN MY LAB
DOING RE-
SEARCH,

GOOD
QUES-
TION.

WHOSE
WERE
THOSE?

BOR-
ROWING
WORDS
AGAIN?

"...BUT
JUST AS
VITAL TO
ASSESS
ONE'S
STRENGTHS."

IN
ORDER
TO DO
WHAT
NEEDS
TO BE
DONE.



THE
WORKINGS
BEHIND THIS
PROCESS
ARE INCRED-
IBLY COMPLI-
CATED.

THOUGH
THAT'S
ALL IT
TAKES,

THE
COM-
PUTER
BOOTS
UP.

...BY
TURNING
ON THE
POWER,



RIGHT,
RIGHT!
"...IS INDIS-
TINGUISH-
ABLE FROM
MAGIC!"

THAT
QUOTE
IS FA-
MOUS.

"ANY
SUFFI-
CIENTLY
ADVANCED
TECHNO-
LOGY..."

I THINK IT'S
STRANGE
THAT PEOPLE
FIND MAGIC
MYSTERIOUS,
BUT NOT
SCIENCE.



...AND
JUST
TAKE
IT FOR
WHAT
IT IS.

BUT
MOST
PEOPLE
DON'T
EVEN
NOTICE
THE SYS-
TEM AT
HAND...

QUIT
PUTTING
ON AIRS.

DO
YOU
KNOW
WHAT
IT IS?

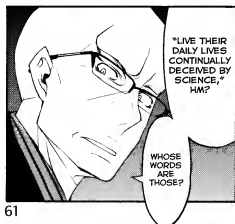
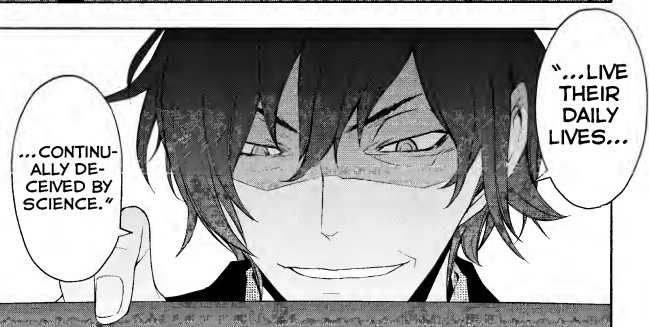
THERE IS A
VERY LARGE,
VERY DISTINCT
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
MAGIC AND
SCIENCE.

HOW-
EVER,

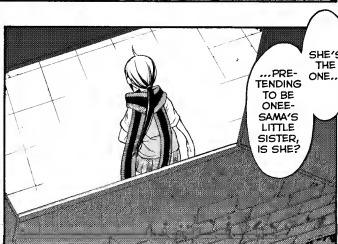
SO, TOO,
ARE THERE
TRICKS TO
SCIENCE

JUST AS
THERE ARE
TRICKS TO
MAGIC,

IT'S
SIM-
PLE.







JUST
KID-
DING!

は
と
た

I'LL
JUST
HAVE HER
RETURN
ONEE-
SAMA,
AND
THAT
WILL
BE
THAT!

I GOT
TO SEE
ONEE-
SAMA'S
FACE
AFTER SO
LONG.

I'LL
LET HER
OFF TO-
NIGHT.

HEY,
JURI-
SAN.

HM?

FIDGET
FIDGET

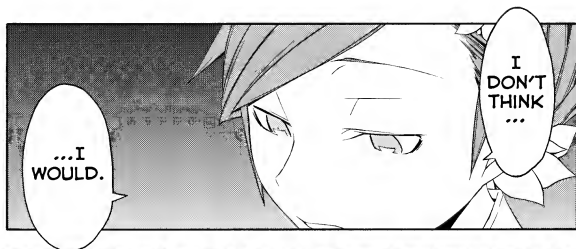
I'M SO
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO LIVING
WITH
ONEE-SAMA
AGAIN.

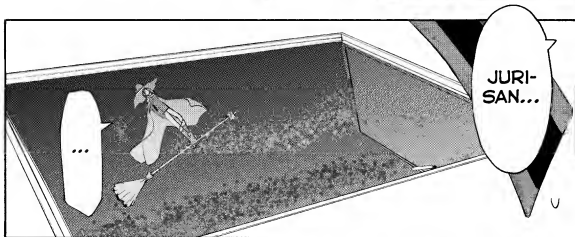
I'M SURE
SHE'LL
BE HAPPY,
TOO!

MMM
...

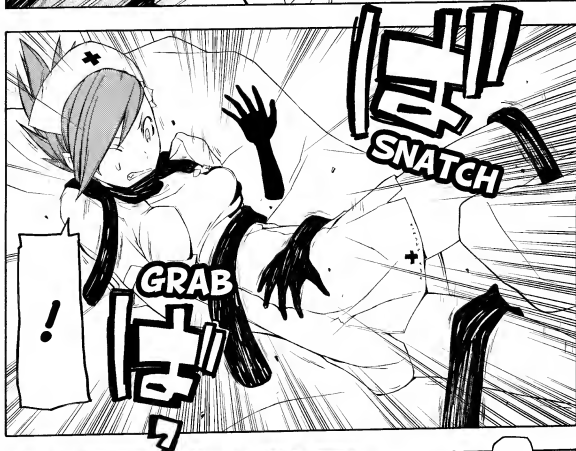
WOULD YOU
MISS YOUR
SISTER IF SHE
WERE STILL
ALIVE? WOULD
YOU WANT TO
SEE HER?

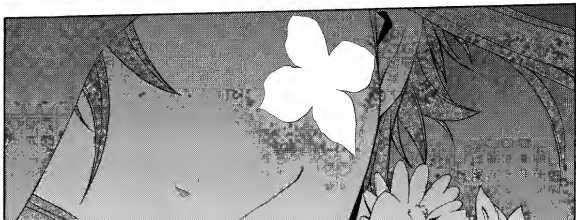
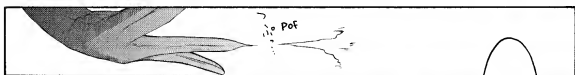
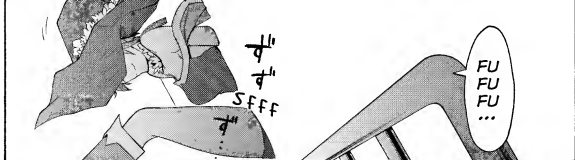
HUM?



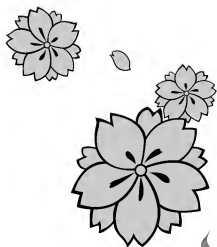












YOZAKURA
QUARTET 9



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 9

BUT
THE SUPER-
NATURAL
FEELING IT
GAVE ME AS I
WATCHED...

THINKING
BACK, IT WAS
A RUDIMENT-
ARY SLEIGHT
OF HAND,

MY FATHER
SHOWED
ME AND MY
SISTER A
MAGIC TRICK.

ONE DAY
WHEN I
WAS
YOUNG,



...COM-
PLETELY
GRABBED
ME BY
THE HEART.



ILLUSION ENCYCLOPEDIA

THE HISTORY OF
MAGIC TRICKS

MAGIC OF THE WORLD



IT WAS
MY DAILY
ROUTINE.



FROM
THE TIME
I WOKE
UP...
...UNTIL I
SLEPT, I
PRACTICED
MAGIC
TRICKS.

...I'D
PRAY THAT
I WOULD I
GET BETTER
AT ILLUSIONS.



BEFORE
I WENT
TO BED...

I JUST
PRAYED
AND
PRAYED.

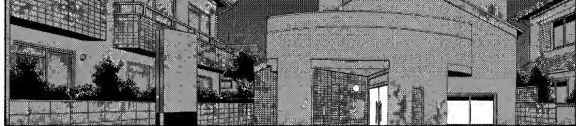


THAT
SOME-
DAY...

I'D BE
ABLE TO DO
SOMETHING AS
AMAZING AS
REAL MAGIC.

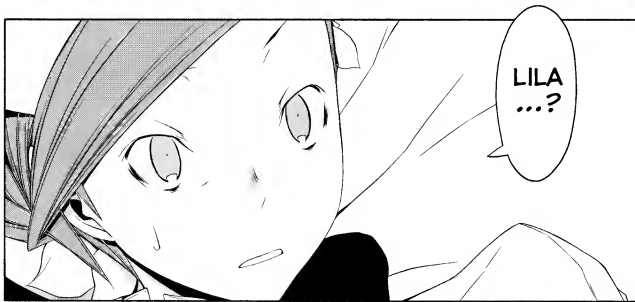
*THAT DAY,
I WANTED
TO BECOME
A WITCH.*





...JURI
ONEE-
SAMA.

HELLO
...



LILA
...?



ONEE-
SAMA?

YOU
MEAN
...?











I'M USED TO
WINDING UP
LIKE THIS
SOMETIMES.

HUH?
THIS?
WHAT
THE?!



THAT'S
RIGHT.

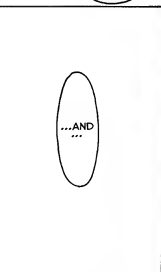
WHEN IT
COMES
TO MAGIC
THAT USES
THAT BOX
...



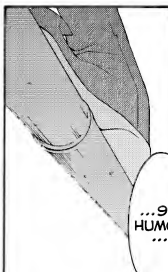
I KNEW
YOU'D
FIGURE
IT OUT
RIGHT
AWAY.

AAH...!
I JUST
LOVE THAT
EXPRESSION
OF YOURS,
ONEE-
SAMA.

DON'T!
STOP
THIS,
LILA!



...AND
...



...9%
HUMOR
...

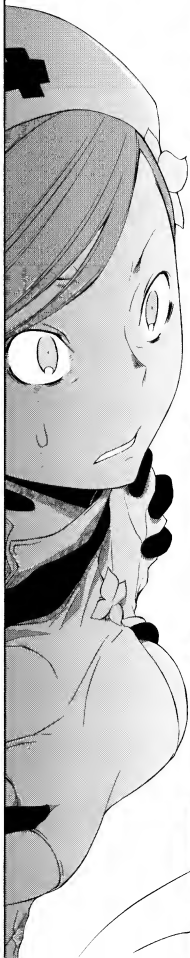


...IS
90%
SUR-
PRISE
...



WHAT A
GOOD
MAGIC
SHOW
NEEDS
...

POOF



...JUST A
DROP...

...OF
TERROR.



SHOULDN'T
WE JUST BROAD-
CAST FROM THE
OFFICE INSTEAD
OF GOING
THROUGH ALL
THIS TROUBLE?

GASP

いん
Bloop

BULL'S-
EYE!



THERE IS A BIG
POSSIBILITY THAT
A DEMON HUNTER
HAS ENTERED
THE CITY! PLEASE
REMAIN CALM AND
RETURN TO YOUR
HOMES...



BACK
TO THE
BASE!
I'M
STARV-
ING...

IT'S
FROM
AKINA-
SAN.

OH, I
GOT A
CALL.

RING
RING



WHAT'S
UP? WE
REPORT-
ED IN A
BIT AGO.

DON'T
CALL
ME
AKINA-
CHAN!

HEL-
LOOO.
AKINA-
CHAN?



HEY,
KOTOHA-
CHAN.

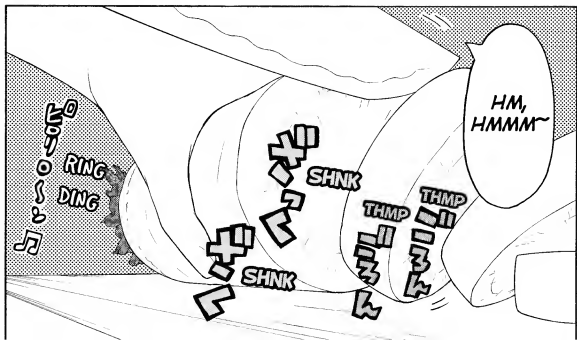


HUH?

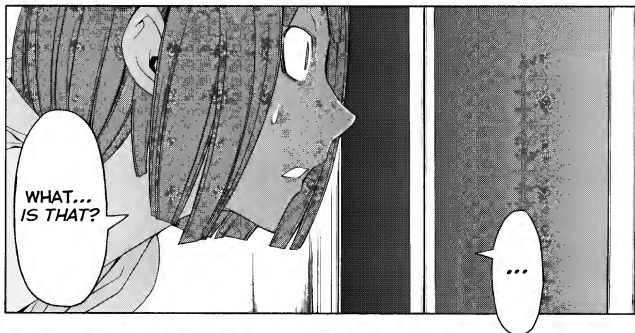
YOU CAN'T
REACH
JURI-SAN
OR HIME?

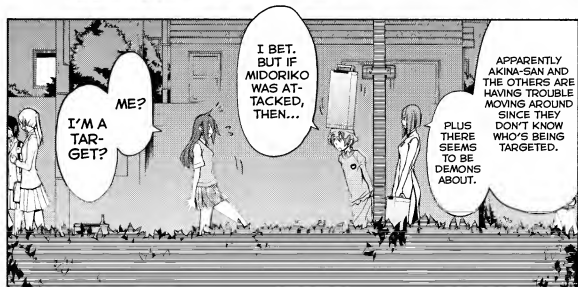
ZAKURO
TOOK
MIDORIKO
TO JURI-
SAN'S
PLACE.

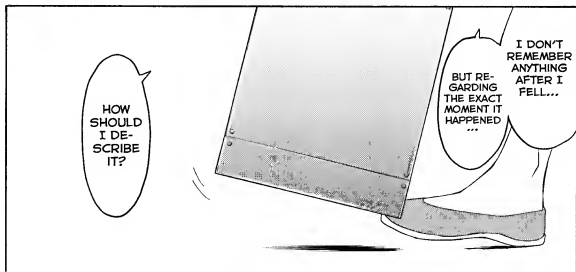
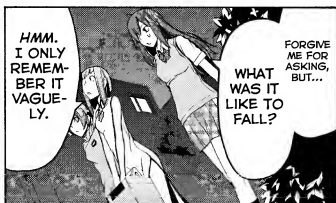
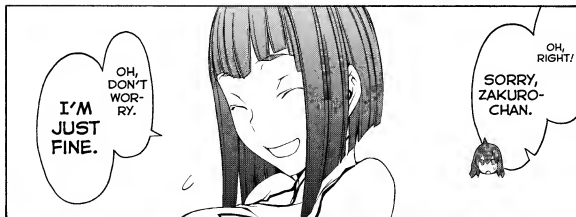
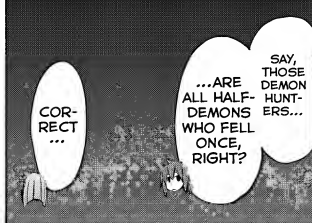
YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.











THAT'S
WHEN
IT HAP-
PENED.

AND
WHEN I
MADE
A WISH
ALONG
THOSE
LINES
...

I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT HOW
I WANTED TO
BE WITH RIN
FOREVER.

...BUT
THAT SORT
OF SENSATION
FELL
FROM THE
SKY WITH A
BANG.

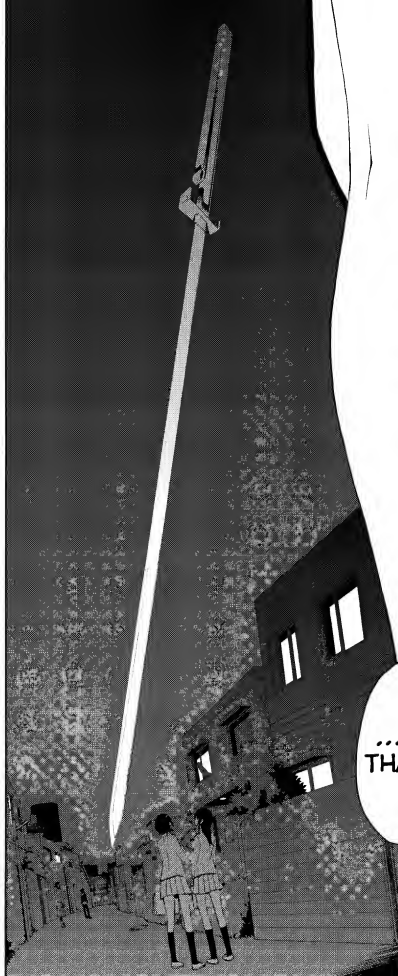
...OR
SOME BALL
OF SPIRE
FROM HAVING
HEARD IT...

I DON'T
KNOW IF
IT WAS IN
RESPONSE
TO MY WISH
...

I'D SAY
IT WAS
LIKE A
SHOOT-
ING
STAR.

IF
I HAD
TO DE-
SCRIBE
IT...

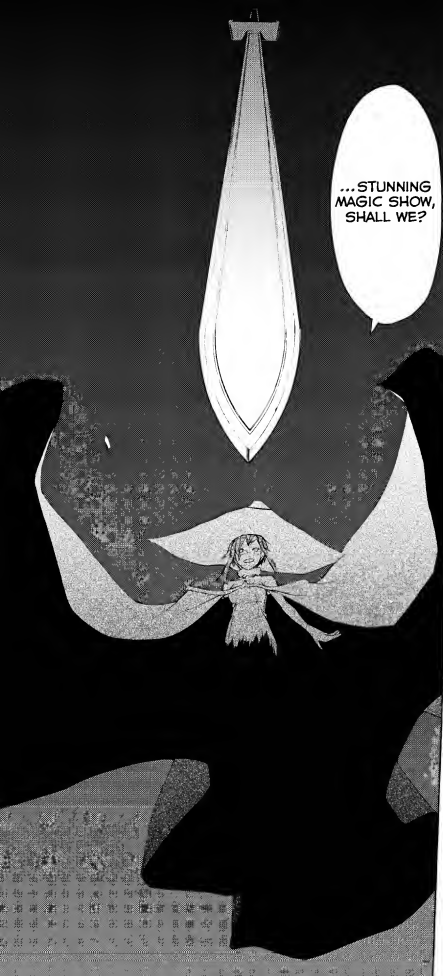
HMM.



WH-
WHAT
ON
EARTH
...

...IS
THAT?

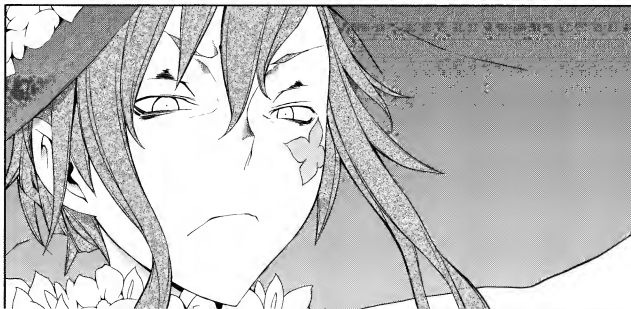
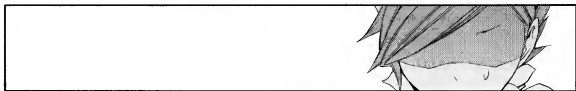


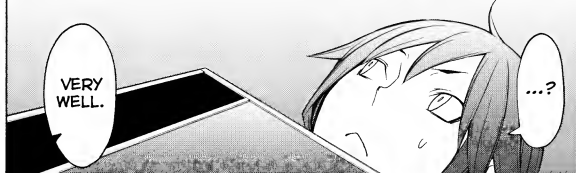


...STUNNING
MAGIC SHOW,
SHALL WE?

NOW
...

LET'S
BEGIN
VICTOR
LILA
FRANKEN-
STEIN'S
...



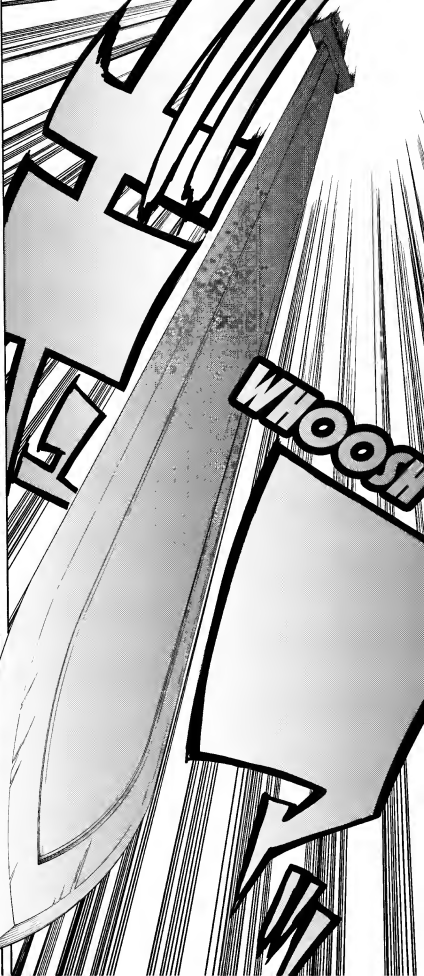




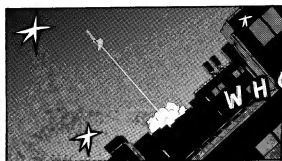
NO!

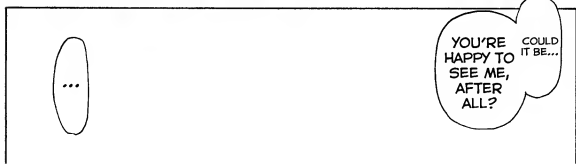
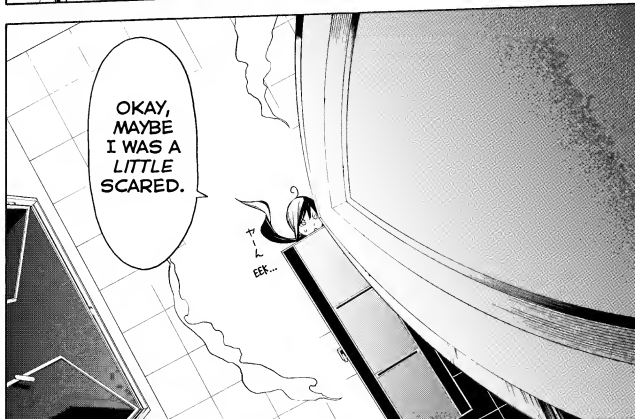
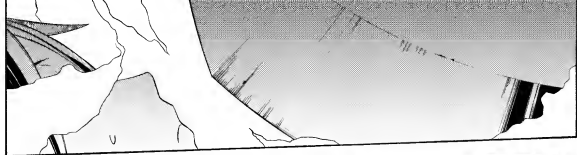


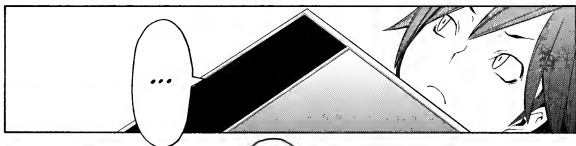
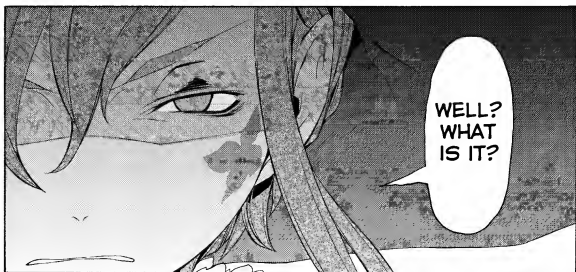
**THAT'S
NOT IT!**



WHOOSH











JUST
LIKE
...

...WHAT
THAT
FOUR-
EYED
FOX
TOLD
ME.



THIS
ISN'T
JUST
SOME
ORDI-
NARY
TRICK!

NO
HU-
MAN
CAN
PULL
THIS
OFF!

IT GOES
BEYOND
THE
LIMITS
OF HU-
MANITY!



I DON'T
KNOW THE
WHOLE
STORY
BETWEEN
YOU AND
YOUR
SISTER,
BUT
LOOK!



F-
FOUR-
EYED
FOX?

JURI-
SAN!



YOU
KNOW,
DON'T
YOU?!
EVERYONE
WHO'S
WORKING
WITH
ENJIN
IS...

SHE'S
ONE OF
ENJIN'S
LACK-
EYS!



I'M
MERE-
LY...

LACKEY?
HOW
RUDE.



STOP
...

PLEASE
STOP,
LILA...



...US-
ING HIM
HOW I
PLEASE.

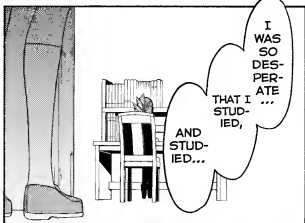
SWISH



WHEN
WE
WERE
KIDS
...
I WANTED
NOTHING
MORE
THAN TO
BECOME A
DOCTOR.



...IN
HOPES OF
REACHING
MY GOAL
SOMEDAY.



I
WAS
SO
DES-
PER-
ATE
...
THAT I
STUD-
IED,
AND
STUD-
IED...



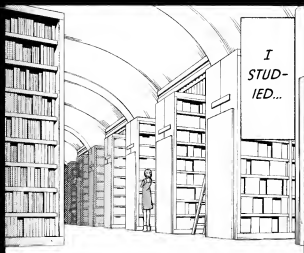
LILA,
YOU
...

JUST AS
ONEE-SAMA
WANTED TO
BECOME A
DOCTOR...

I, TOO, HAD
SOMETHING
I WANTED
TO BECOME.



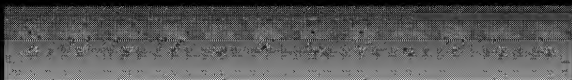
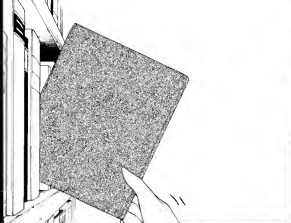
AND
STUD-
IED...



I
STUD-
IED...



...IN
HOPES OF
REACHING
MY GOAL
SOMEDAY.



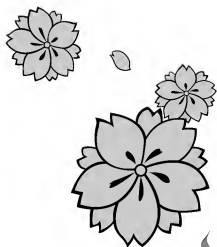
...THAT
I JUST
COULDN'T
HELP
MYSELF.

I WAS SO
DESPERATE...

...TO BE-
COME A
WITCH...

A black and white manga-style illustration. A character wearing a dark, hooded cloak with wide, flowing sleeves stands with their back to the viewer, looking up at a bright, multi-pointed star in a dark sky. The character's face is obscured by the hood. The background shows a dark, silhouetted landscape with trees. A hand is visible at the bottom right, holding the bottom of the character's cloak.

*SO I
WISHED
UPON A
STAR.*



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 9



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 9

*...I
ACCEPTED
THE
SHOOTING
STAR.*

*AND
WITH MY
BODY...*

*THAT STAR
RESPONDED
TO MY
PRAYERS...*

*I
WISHED
UPON A
STAR...*

*AND
"FELL"
FROM
THE SKY.*

*...IN
HOPES
OF BE-
COMING
A WITCH.*









I WAS WONDERING HOW THINGS ARE GOING.

IT ENDED.

YOU CALLED ME... DIDN'T YOU GO TO A MEETING?

OH, AKINA, HUH?

HELLO?

WHAT DID HE SAY?

BOOP?

HM.

I SEE.

ALL RIGHT. GOOD LUCK, THEN.

THE HUNTER'S TARGET SEEMS TO BE A HUMAN THIS TIME.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT.

THAT'S WHY I'M CURIOUS.

I'M HEADED TO JURISAN'S OFFICE RIGHT NOW.

I WISH I KNEW.

HE'S BECOMING MORE LIKE THE FORMER DIRECTOR BY THE DAY.

LIKE GRANDFATHER, LIKE GRANDSON.

THEIR JOB IS TO PROTECT THE TOWNSFOLK.

HE SAID WHETHER A TARGET'S A DEMON OR A HUMAN,



GAD-
GETS
THESE
DAYS.

THEY'RE
TOO
COMPLI-
CATED.

DON'T
YOU
THINK
SO,
TOO?

...



IN-
DEED.

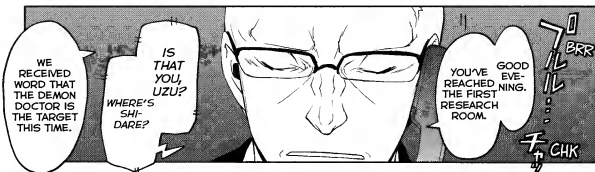
SHIDARE-
SAN'S
RESEARCH
ROOM,
THEN?

CALL
THE
SENATE,
WOULD
YOU?

SHI-
DARE
TOLD
ME TO
CARRY
ONE.

GIVE
HIM A
HAND,
MARIA-
BELL.

DIDN'T
EXPECT
YOU TO
HAVE A
CELL
PHONE.



WE
RECEIVED
WORD THAT
THE DEMON
DOCTOR IS
THE TARGET
THIS TIME.

IS
THAT
YOU,
UZU?

WHERE'S
SHI-
DARE?

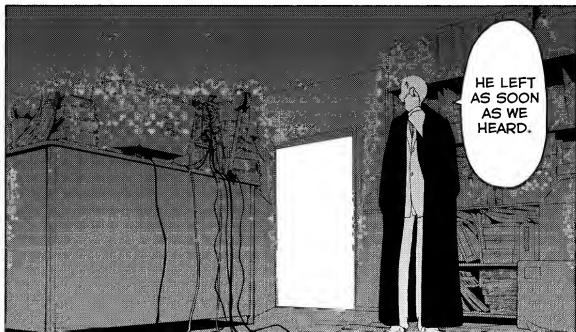
YOU'VE
REACHED
THE FIRST
RESEARCH
ROOM.

GOOD
EVE-
NING.

BRR

IL
IL
...

CHK

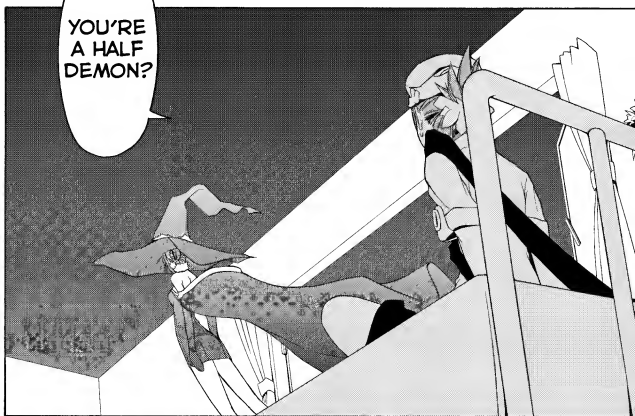


HE LEFT
AS SOON
AS WE
HEARD.



YOU'RE
KIDDING
...

LILA
...



YOU'RE
A HALF
DEMON?



THAT'S
NOT A VERY
CHARMING
WAY TO
PUT IT.









BE
CAREFUL,
AKINA-
SAN.

OKEY-
DOKEY.
I JUST
JOINED UP
WITH THE
OTHERS.

ZAKU-
RO!



MY,
MY
...

OH?



I'M *HMM?*
SORRY,
HAVE
WE...?

I GUESS
I SHOULD
SAY IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE.

NO
SUR-
PRISE.
PEOPLE
WHO COME
BACK FROM
FALLING
DON'T
REMEMBER
ANYTHING.

UN-
FORTU-
NATELY
SO.

HAVE
YOU
FOR-
GOT-
TEN?

WE
MET
ONCE
WHEN
ALL
THE
DEMON
HUNTERS
GATHERED.

I
WELL,
SEE,
THEN.

MAYBE I'LL
JUST PULL
YOU BACK
OVER TO
THIS SIDE,
THEN.

MAKE
SURE NO
STRAY
BLADES
HIT THE
TOWN!

I'M
FREE!

KO-
TOHA!
ZAKU-
RO!

TCH!

BZZT

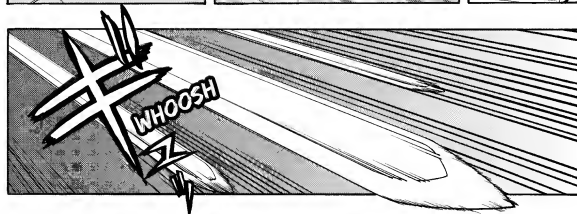
SHIIING
T T T

AAH,
JEEZ
...
ZAKURO!
TAKE
HALF OF
THEM,
WILL
YOU?

EEEEK.
ALL
RIGHT.

PHWE

GRRK





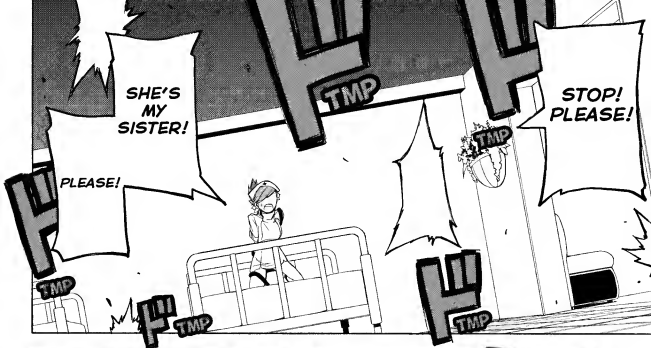
**THERE'S
TOO
MAAANY!**

TMPT**MPT**M**P**T**MPT**M**P**T**MPT**M**P**T**MPT**

**TRAY,
TRAY,
TRAY,
TRAY,
TRAY,
TRAY,
TRAY,
TRAY,
TRAY**

**AAH, WHY
DIDN'T I
MAKE IT
EASIER
TO SAY
WHEN I IN-
STALLED
?!**

...



OH,
ONEE-
SAMA, I
SWEAR
...

SWAY

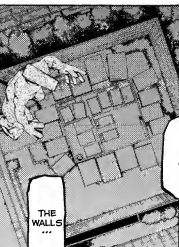
YET YOU
WON'T SAY
YOU'RE
HAPPY TO
SEE ME.

YOU'LL
STILL
CALL ME
YOUR
SISTER,
WILL
YOU?

SO,

...MORE
HALF-
HEARTED.

YOU
COULDN'T
BE...



THE
WALLS
...

!

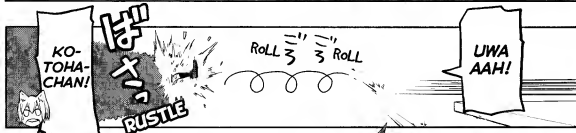
は
た
KTNK

は
た
KTNK

は
た
KTNK

WHAT
...?

す
Swoo





...JUST
LEAVE
ME AND
ONEE-
SAMA
ALONE?

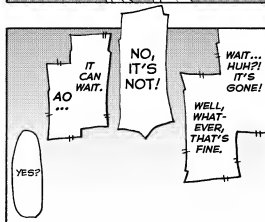
WOULD
YOU
PLEASE
...



HUP!

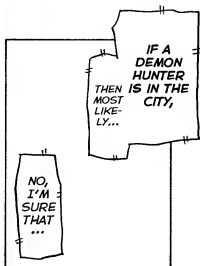








HE'S
...
SOME-
WHERE
HERE,
TOO!



IF A
DEMON
HUNTER
IS IN THE
CITY,
THEN
MOST
LIKE-
LY...

NO,
I'M
SURE
THAT
...



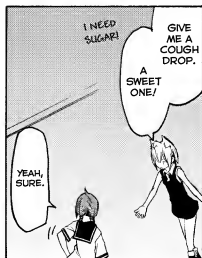
KO-
TOHA-
CHAN!

BOOP
70
47

I'LL
CALL
YOU
BACK
IN A
MIN-
UTE.

ROG-
ER!

SO
...



I NEED
SUGAR!

GIVE
ME A
COUGH
DROP.

A
SWEET
ONE!

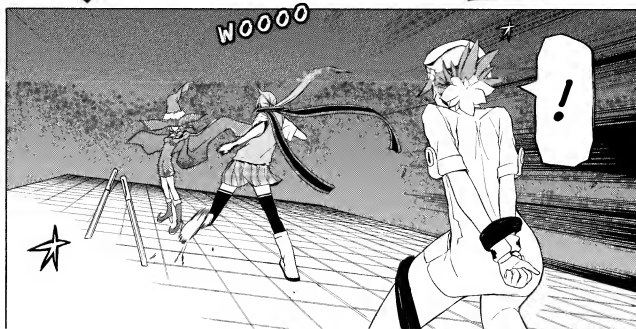
YEAH,
SURE.

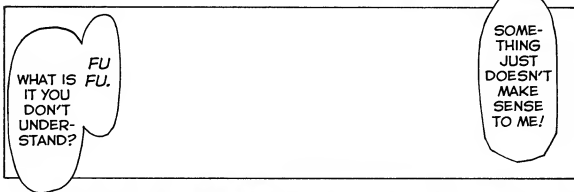
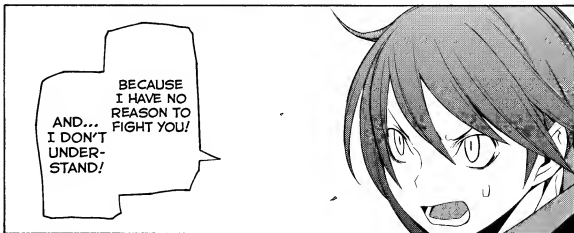


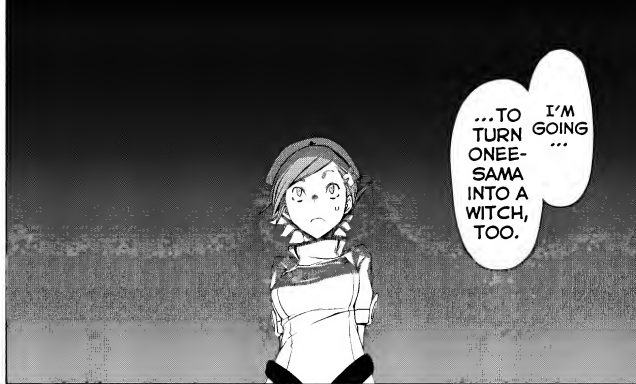
OKAY
...



HM?







...TO
TURN
ONEE-
SAMA
INTO A
WITCH,
TOO.

I'M
GOING
...



THEN
WE'LL
MATCH.



SATIS-
FIED?



BWOF

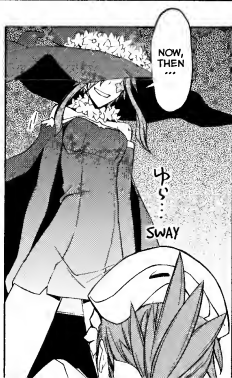
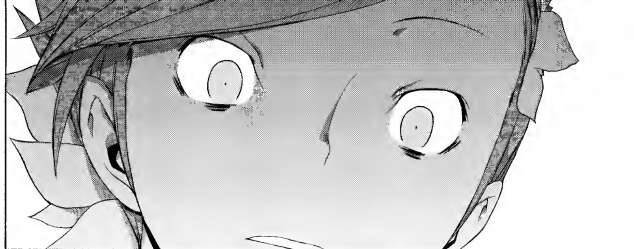
I'M
DONE
TALK-
ING.

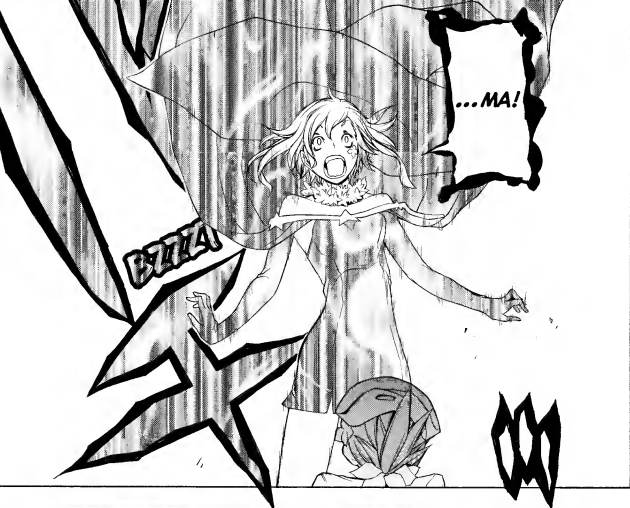
ENOUGH.

A
WITCH?
YOU'RE
GONNA
MAKE
JURI-
SAN A
HALF-
DEMON,
TOO?

THAT'S
...









EH?
AH!



WOOW,
SOME-
THING'S
GOING
ON.
ARE
YOU
FROM
THE
SEN-
ATE?



AAH, NO
WORRIES.
IT'S JUST
A LIGHT
ANTI-DEMON
BARRIER.



SHI-
DARE-
SAN!
DON'T
YOU
THINK
THAT WAS
A LITTLE
MUCH?



WITH THE
VITALITY
OF A HALF-
DEMON SHE
SHOULD
BE... FINE...



THINK
OF IT
LIKE A
REALLY
WEAK
TASER.



LILA?



HUH
...?

WEIRD. THAT
SHOULDN'T
HAPPEN.

A-ARE YOU
REALLY
SURE SHE
SHOULD
BE IN THAT
MUCH PAIN?



WELL,
NO
WON-
DER.

HMM
AAH. ...

AND
BACK UP
A LITTLE.

DID YOU
CHECK
THE
OUT-
PUT?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON,
SHIINA-
KUN?



...IS
HUMAN.



THAT
GIRL
...

...WANTED
TO SUR-
PRISE YOU.

PLIP
た、

I...I
JUST...

AND
YET
...

WHY
WON'T
YOU
SAY IT?

...YOU
WERE
GLAD
I WAS
ALIVE.

I JUST
WANTED
YOU TO
SAY...

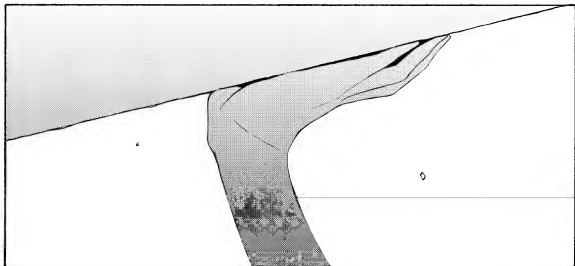
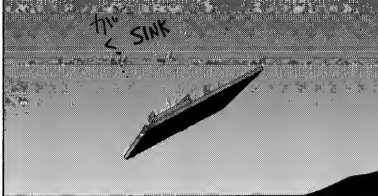


I...

I...

LILA
...

LEAN









THAT'S WHY...

YET I WAS SO COLD TO HER.

...TO MAKE ME HAPPY.

LILA WAS ALWAYS JUST TRYING HER BEST...



...I KNOW I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

...BEFORE I SAY, "I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE"...

THAT'S WHY...

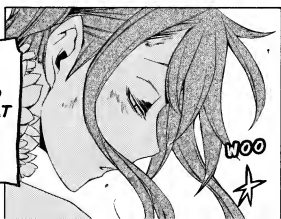
...THAT BY THE TIME I'M DONE, I'LL BE AN OLD WOMAN.

I...

BUT THERE ARE JUST SO MANY THINGS I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR...



SO WHAT ?!



THAT'S
WHAT
ALL THE
ADULTS
IN THIS
TOWN
TAUGHT
ME!

IF
YOU'RE
HAPPY,
THEN
SAY
THANK
YOU!

IF
YOU DO
SOME-
THING
WRONG,
SAY
YOU'RE
SORRY!

SO YOU
HAVE TO
APOLO-
GIZE!

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
TAUGHT
ME!



YOU'RE
...
ABSOLUTELY
RIGHT.

I'M
SORRY
FOR EV-
ERYTHING
WHEN WE
WERE
KIDS.

I'M SO
SORRY,
LILA.

I'M
SOR-
RY.



BUT
...

AND I STILL
THINK THAT
THERE ARE
THINGS THAT
CAN'T BE
FORGIVEN
WITH A
SIMPLE
APOLOGY!

YEAH,
I SAID
THAT!

SHUT
UP!

WOOO

WHO WAS IT
THAT SAID IF
APOLOGIES
WERE ENOUGH,
THEN WE
WOULDN'T
NEED
POLICE?

SO
...

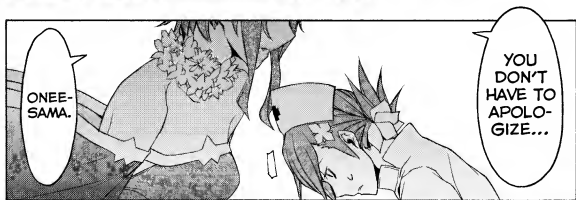
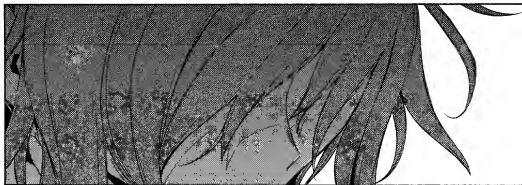
SHE
SAYS
SHE'S
SORRY,

SO
...

...TRY-
ING HER
BEST TO
APOLO-
GIZE!

REAL-
LY...

BUT
JURI-
SAN IS
REALLY,



...BUT
THAT JUST
MEANS
I NEEDED
MORE
PRACTICE.

I WOULD
HAVE BEEN
HAPPIER IF
YOU HAD
LIKED MY
TRICKS...

I WAS
HAPPY
ENOUGH
JUST
HAVING
YOU
WATCH.

I ONLY
WANTED
TO HELP
YOU RELAX
FROM YOUR
STUDIES.

AFTER
ALL, I
LOVE
YOU,
ONEE-
SAMA.

THAT'S
WHY I CAN
HONESTLY
SAY...

I DON'T
RESENT
YOU ONE
BIT.



I...



!!
HUG



I
LOVED
THE
TRICKS
YOU
SHOWED
ME WHEN
WE WERE
KIDS!

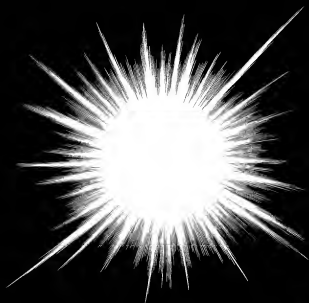
わ
I
WAAAAH

I'M SO
GLAD
YOU'RE
ALIVE!
I'M SO
HAPPY! I
MISSED
YOU SO
MUCH!



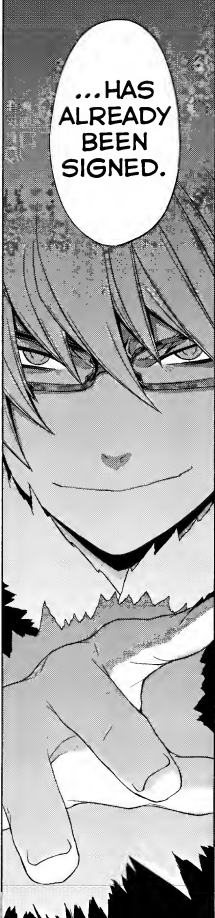
BUT
...

I'VE
WAITED
SO MANY
YEARS...
...TO
HEAR
THOSE
WORDS.

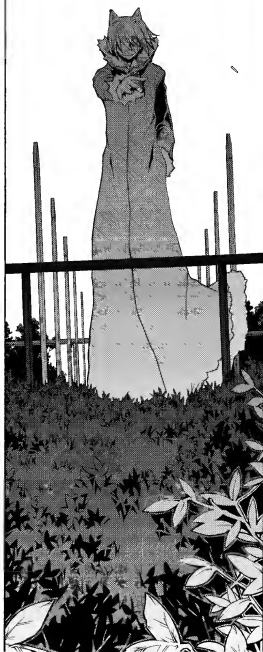


...IT'S
TOO
LATE.





...HAS
ALREADY
BEEN
SIGNED.



THE
CON-
TRACT
...







SO,
YOU
MADE
IT IN
TIME,
AFTER
ALL.



WOO

LOOK
AT
YOU,
THE
BIG SHOT
MAIN
CHARAC-
TER WHO
ARRIVES
LAST.



IT SCAT-
TERED?!



FWOO





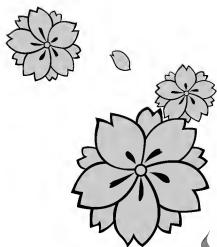
A black and white manga panel showing a character with dark hair running through a field at night. The character is wearing a dark shirt and light-colored pants. The background features trees and a dark sky. A large, irregular white shape on the left side of the panel contains the text 'AKINA... HIIZUMI!'.

**AKINA...
HIIZUMI!**



A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a character's face. The character has dark hair and is looking intensely at the viewer. The character's mouth is slightly open, showing a small object. A large, irregular white shape on the left side of the panel contains the text 'HAH!'.

HAH!



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 9



49TH NIGHT SONG OF FLOWERS (PART SIX)





WOULD
YOU MIND
RELAYING A
MESSAGE
TO SATORI
FOR ME...

TAP
TAP

IT
KIND OF
STINGS.

MY
EARS ARE
MUCH MORE
SENSITIVE
THAN THE
AVERAGE
PERSON'S.

...TO
LAY OFF
ON THE
SATELLITE
USAGE?

LIKE
HELL I
WILL!



MY
SPECIALTY
IS THIS.

I DON'T
MIND, BUT
I'M ONLY
BORROWING
THIS BODY.
I'M NOT
USED TO
CONTROLLING
IT YET.



HMPH.

...WITH
THAT
BOR-
ROWED
SATORI
POWER?!

WHY
NOT
TELL
HER
YOUR-
SELF
...



THE
HIIZUMI
CLAN'S
POWER.



THE
SAME
GOES
FOR THE
HIIZUMI'S
POWER.

BUT
THERE IS A
FRONT AND
BACK TO
EVERYTHING.
LIGHT AND
DARKNESS.

!

THAT'S
RIGHT,
THE
HIIZUMI
CLAN'S
POWER.



...I
USE
DROPP-
PING.
IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

AS
FOR
ME,
A
MEMBER
OF THE
BRANCH
FAMILY...

YOU
COULD
ALSO
CALL
IT THE
POWER
TO "SEND
OFF."

FOR
YOU,
IT'S
THE HEAD
FAMILY'S
TUNING.



...THE
POWER TO
"BRING
BACK"!

SNAP



BOTH ARE
POWERS
TO CROSS
DIMEN-
SIONS.
IN A
SENSE,
WE'RE
FERRY-
MEN.

HWO



SO
WHAT?

SNATCH

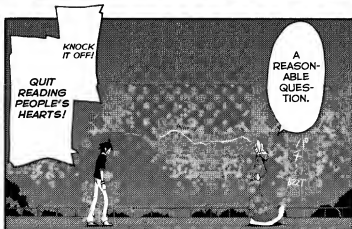
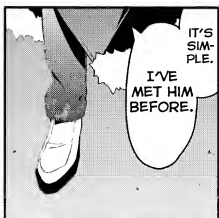
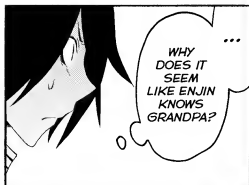


...?

THOUGH
IT MAY BE
DUE TO THE
DIFFERENCE
IN POWER,
DON'T YOU
FIND THAT
STRANGE?

...AND A
BRANCH
FAMILY.

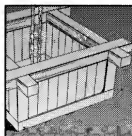
WE
WIELD
THE SAME
POWER,
YET THERE
EXISTS
A HEAD
FAMILY
...





...WAS
NONE
OTHER
THAN YOU,
AKINA.

...THE
ONE WHO
SENT HIM
OVER...

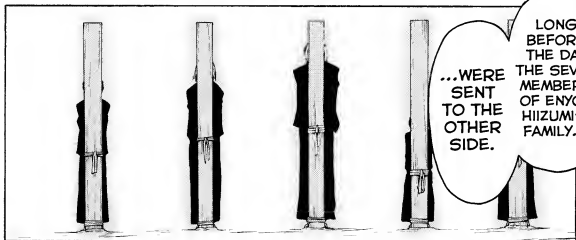


IT
ORIGINATES
BEFORE THE
APPEARANCE
OF THE
SEVEN
PILLARS.

BACK TO
WHY THE
MAIN AND
BRANCH
FAMILY
HAVE THE
SAME
POWER.

WE
GOT
OFF
TOP-
IC.

...



LONG
BEFORE
THE DAY
THE SEVEN
MEMBERS
OF ENYOU
HIIZUMI'S
FAMILY...
...WERE
SENT
TO THE
OTHER
SIDE.

THE
REA-
SON
BEING
...

BUT
THAT
SAME
BIRTH
THREW
THE
ENTIRE
HIIZUMI
CLAN
INTO
CHAOS.

A
HEALTHY
BABY
BOY.
ONE
YEAR, THE
HEAD
FAMILY
WAS
BLESSSED
WITH A
LONG-
AWAITED
CHILD.

AND
ONLY
THE
FIRST-
BORN
SON
WIELDED
THE
FAMILY
POWER.

AT
THE TIME,
THERE
EXISTED
ONLY ONE
CONTINU-
OUS HIIZUMI
HEAD
FAMILY...





...IT
WAS
TWINS
THAT
WERE
BORN.



...AND
BRANCH
FAMILIES.

...BE-
CAME
THE
HEAD
...

ONE
HELD
THE
POWER
TO
"SEND,"
WHILE
THE OTHER
HELD THE
POWER TO
"BRING."

THE
LINEAGES
FOLLOWING
THE POWER
SPLIT...

BECAUSE
THE POWER
TO BRING,
"DROPPING"
...

SIM-
PLE.

WHY ARE
YOU MADE TO
BE THE HEAD
FAMILY, WHILE
WE BECAME
THE BRANCH
FAMILY?

RATHER,
YOU COULD
SAY IT'S
DETESTED.

...HAS
NO PLACE
IN THIS
WORLD.

THAT'S-

MOV-
ING
ON...

JOIN
ME.

AKINA
HIIZUMI.



...AND
DEMONS
ALIKE.

HU-
MANS
...

BUT IF YOU
WERE TO JOIN
FORCES WITH
ME, WE COULD
EASILY HAVE THE
WORLD IN THE
PALM OF OUR
HANDS.

EVEN IF I
TOOK YOUR
BODY, I DOUBT
I WOULD BE
ABLE TO USE
THE HEAD
FAMILY'S
POWER TO
ITS FULL
POTENTIAL.



EVEN
GODS
...



I
BET.

I
WOULDN'T
ENJOY IT
EVEN IF
IT DID
HAPPEN.

I
DON'T
GET
YOU.

WELL?
DOESN'T IT
INVIGORATE
YOU JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT?



IN OTHER
WORDS,
THIS ISN'T
A PROPOSI-
TION, BUT
AN ORDER.

THIS
PRO-
POSAL
...

...DOESN'T
POSE ANY
BENEFITS
FOR YOU.



...THERE'S
ALSO THIS
BENEFIT TO
CONSIDER.



すい
SWIF



I'M
NOT
REALLY
INTER-
ESTED,
BUT...

OH,
RIGHT.



...



YOU
COULD MAKE
ANYONE
YOU CHOOSE
YOUR
PERSONAL
PET.

BY CON-
TROLLING
THIS WORLD,
EVERYONE
WILL BE AT
YOUR BECK
AND CALL.



HOW
'BOUT
IT? NOT
A BAD
DEAL,
RIGHT?



...

TO BE
HONEST,
I UNDER-
ESTIMATED
YOU.



I GOTTA
HAND IT
TO YOU.

YOU
SHOW UP
OUT OF
NOWHERE
WITHOUT ANY
MIND FOR
DECENCY.



...BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE
I DON'T
NEED TO,
ANYMORE.

I FELT I
SHOULD
APOLOGIZE
FOR THAT,
EVENTU-
ALLY...



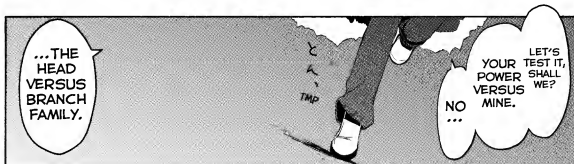
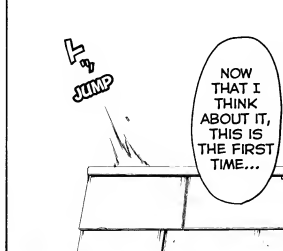
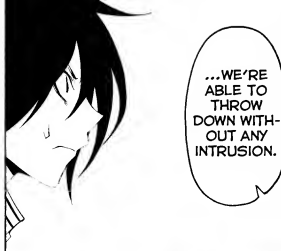
I'LL
THROW
YOU
BACK
TO THE
OTHER
SIDE
RIGHT
HERE
AND
NOW!

GET DOWN
HERE, YOU
CORRUPT
SON OF A
BITCH!

YOU ALSO
UNDERES-
TIMATED
ME WAY
TOO MUCH.



THAT'S
A NICE
EXPRES-
SION YOU
HAVE.





IS
THAT
ALL
YOU'VE
GOT?!

WHOO

WHOO

COME
ON!
WHAT'S
WRONG
?!

...!

BZZT

ARE
YOU
REALLY
OKAY
WITH
THAT?!

GRSH

GRSH

THE
MORE
...

...YOU
USE
YOUR
...

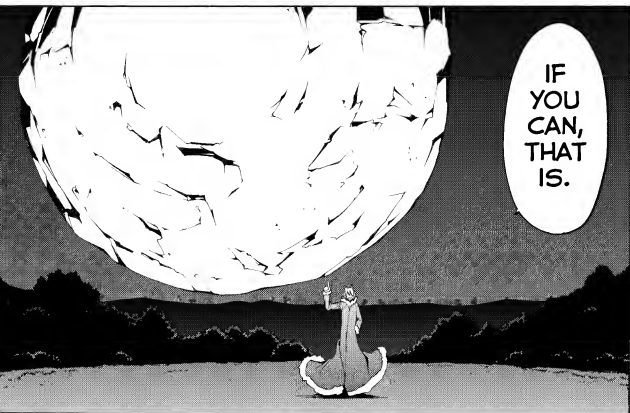
...POW-
ER...

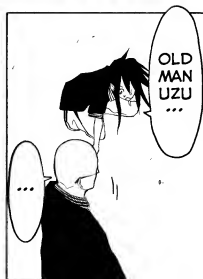
BZZT

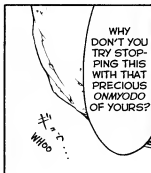
BZZT

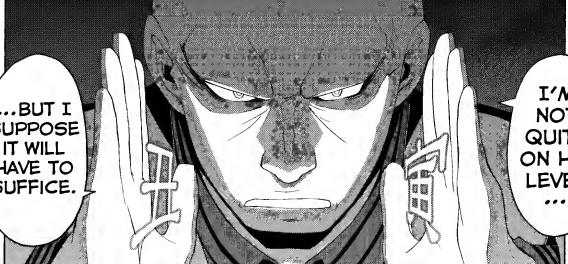
BZZT











...BUT I
SUPPOSE
IT WILL
HAVE TO
SUFFICE.

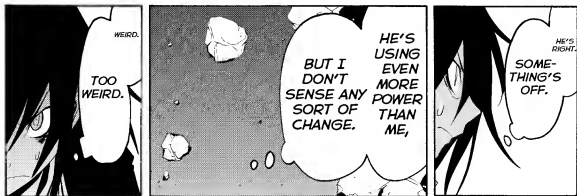
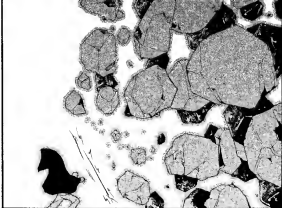
I'M
NOT
QUITE
ON HIS
LEVEL
...

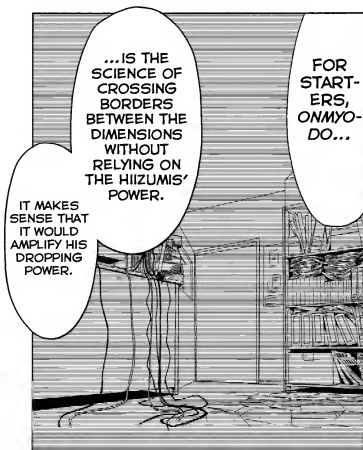
Sign: Northeast



BOOM

HNGH!







THAT'S
HOW IT
IS.

HE
CAN.

**BUT...
THAT'S
JUST...**

THEORY?!
HOW CAN HE
IMPLEMENT
IT IMMEDI-
ATELY JUST
BY KNOWING
THE THEORY
BEHIND IT?

AND
SCIENCE
MUST
ALWAYS
BE THAT
WAY.

THAT IS
SCIENCE,

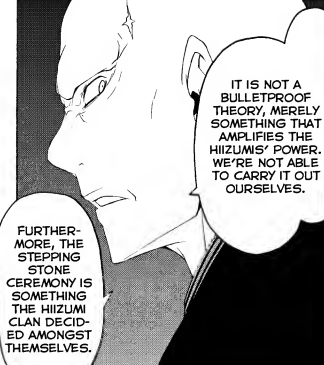
...EVEN
AFTER
MILLIONS
OF TRIALS,
IT WILL
ONLY LEAD
TO ONE
RESULT.

IF YOU
FOLLOW
THE
PROPER
STEPS
BASED
ON A
PERFECT
THEORY
...

THEN
WE, THE
HIIZUMI
CLAN...

IF...IF
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT
EXISTS
...

THEORY
...



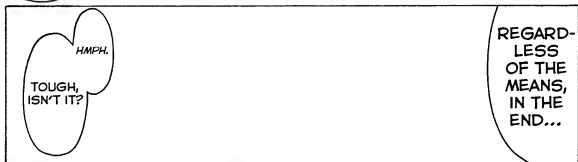
FURTHER-
MORE, THE
STEPPING
STONE
CEREMONY IS
SOMETHING
THE HIIZUMI
CLAN DECID-
ED AMONGST
THEMSELVES.

IT IS NOT A
BULLETPROOF
THEORY, MERELY
SOMETHING THAT
AMPLIFIES THE
HIIZUMIS' POWER.
WE'RE NOT ABLE
TO CARRY IT OUT
OURSELVES.



...TO
CARRY
OUT THE
STEPPING
STONE
CEREMONY
WITH
OUR OWN
HANDS.

...
HAVE
NO
REA-
SON
...



HMPH.

TOUGH,
ISN'T IT?

REGARD-
LESS
OF THE
MEANS,
IN THE
END...



I'M
SURE YOU
WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM.

I'LL
LET
YOU
MEET
THEM.
OR
MAYBE
...

SWIF



ARE
YOU
CURI-
OUS?



TUNING
YOUR OWN
GRANDFATHER
AND SON
WITH YOUR
OWN HANDS,
UNSURE OF
WHAT AWAITS
THEM ON THE
OTHER SIDE.

THAT'S
A HEAVY
BURDEN.





OH,
WELL.

I
SEE YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
BELIEVE
IT.



IT
CAN'T!

SHUDDER
SHUDDER

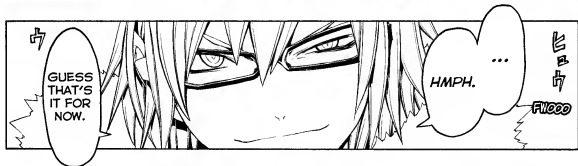
NO...
THAT
CAN'T
BE!



GUH!

SLUMP!

HI-
IZUMI!



GUESS
THAT'S
IT FOR
NOW.

HMPH.

FWOOO



WHAT
...?

NO
QUES-
TIONS.

FWOOO



DUCK.

WOOOO

WORST-CASE
SCENARIO
IS I HAVE TO
TAKE YOUR
BODY AND THE
HEAD FAMILY'S
POWER, BUT
I CAN'T HAVE
YOU DIE HERE
JUST YET.



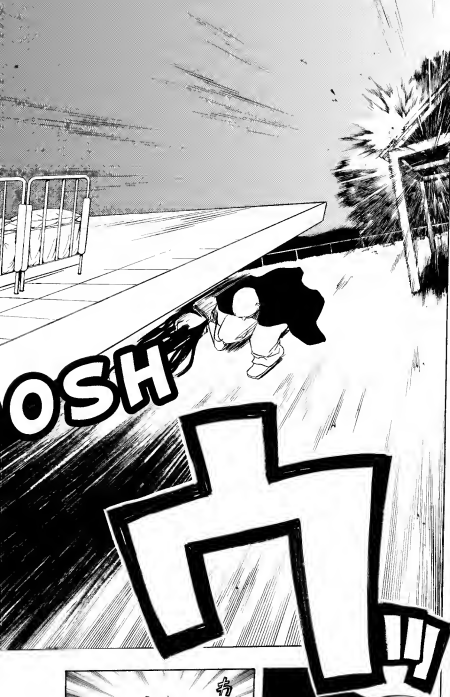
?

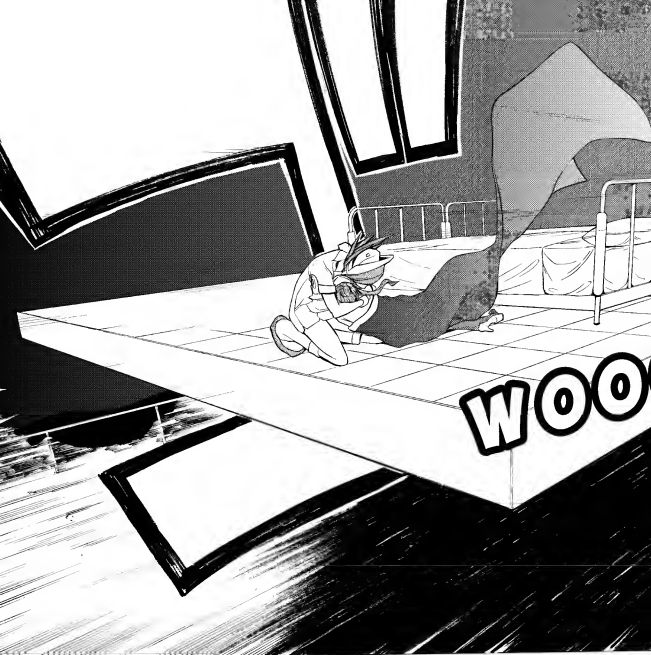
FWOOO



**GET
DOWN!**



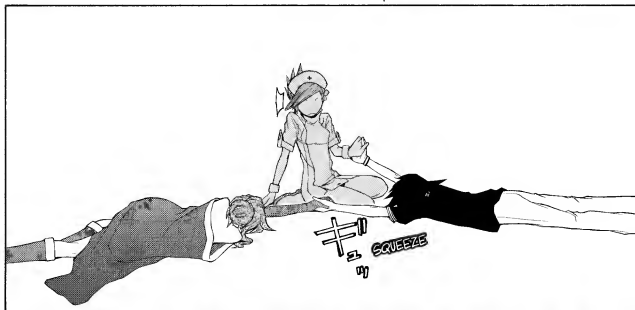
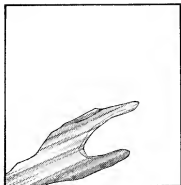


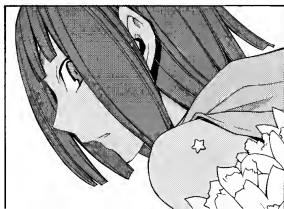












OH,
WELL...
I GUESS
I'LL
FORGIVE
YOU!

わ
ー
WOOW!

WOW!
THEY'RE
SO
PRETTY!



SURPRISING
CUSTOMERS
AND BRING-
ING THEM
JOY...





YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
THANK
ME, JUST
SMILE.



THAT IS
MY DUTY AS
AN ENTER-
TAINER.



...THANKS
ANYWAY!

OKAY.

BUT...





I'VE BEEN NOTICED!

IT SEEMS A BEAR HAS COME OUT OF THE WOODS, ANYWAY.



MY MOOD IS KILLED.
I'LL PULL OUT FOR NOW.

WELL, WHAT NOW?



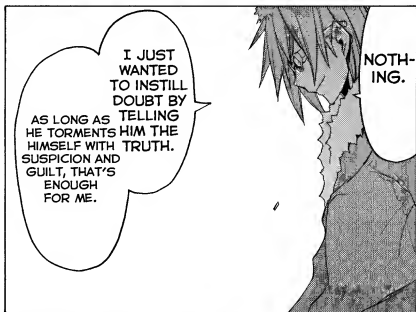
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THAT?

...TO TELL AKINA A LOT.

PLUS, I WAS ABLE ...

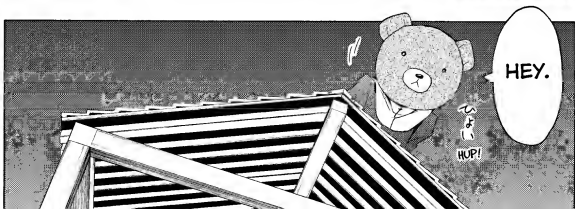


WHAT A SHREWD MAN.



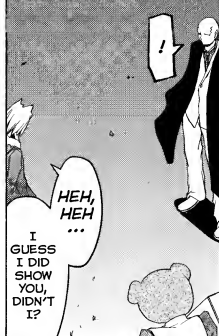
NOTHING.

I JUST WANTED TO INSTILL DOUBT BY TELLING AS LONG AS HE TORTURES HIM THE HIMSELF WITH TRUTH. SUSPICION AND GUILT, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.



HEY.

ひい
HUP!



I
GUESS
I DID
SHOW
YOU,
DIDN'T
I?

HEH,
HEH
...



I'VE HAD THIS
THOUGHT FOR
A WHILE, BUT
YOU CAN USE
TUNING, TOO,
CAN'T YOU?

YOU
USED IT
DURING
OUR
FIGHT,
RIGHT?



THAT'S
RIGHT.

THEN
...



WELL,
COMPARED
TO MEMBERS
OF THE MAIN
FAMILY, MINE
PACKS
AS MUCH
PUNCH AS A
MOSQUITO.

THOUGH THE
POWER MAY
HAVE BEEN
SPLIT INTO
TWO, THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN THEY
ARE COMPLE-
TELY
SEPARATE
FROM EACH
OTHER.



SLEEPS THE
POWER OF
DROPPING,
AS WELL.

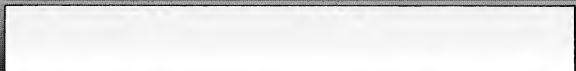
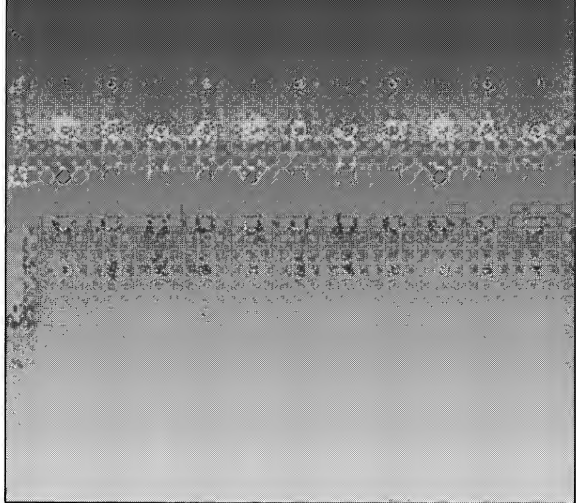
DEEP
WITHIN
THAT
BOY'S
BODY
...

REMEMBER
THIS.

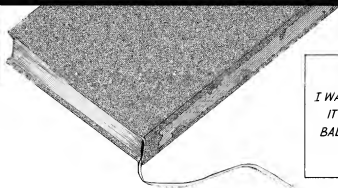
I AM NOT
THE ONLY
MONSTER
...



...CAPA-
BLE OF
DESTROY-
ING THIS
WORLD.



...THAT I
WISHED
UPON
A STAR.



I WANTED
IT SO
BADLY...

BACK THEN,
I WANTED
TO BECOME
A WITCH.



I...



*AND
WITH MY
BODY...*

I...

*...AND
FELL
FROM
THE SKY.*

*THAT STAR
ANSWERED
MY
PRAYERS...*





AAH!



...RE-
CEIVED
IT.

OUCH...
ARE YOU
OKAY,
LILA?

WAS
THAT
LIGHT-
NING OR
SOME-
THING
...?

たぐ
く
SIT

OR I
SHOULD
HAVE.

OF
COURSE
I'D BE
CURIOUS
WHERE
YOU WERE
GOING.

WHY?
BECAUSE
I SAW YOU
LEAVE THE
HOUSE
WHEN IT'S
THIS LATE.

WHY
ARE
YOU
HERE?

ONEE-
SAMA
...

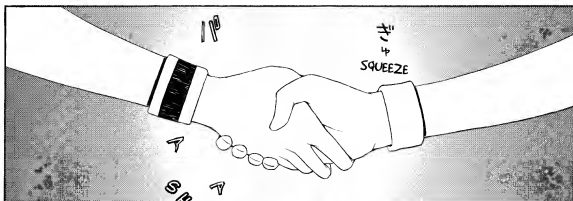


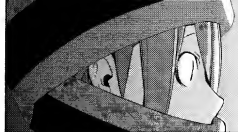












...ARE
HUMANS.

THE ONLY
ONES WHO
CAN HELP
AKINA BY
HOLDING
HIS HAND
...

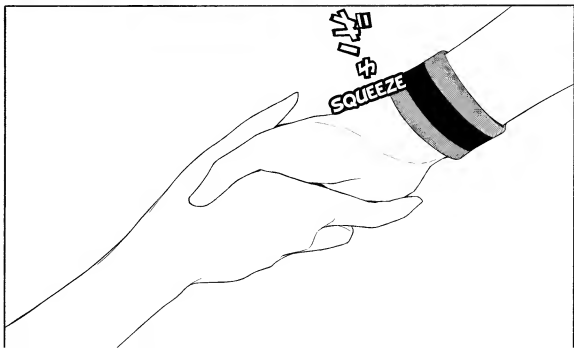
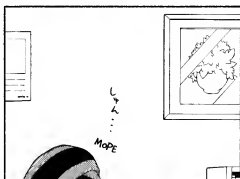
FOR
DEMONS
LIKE ME...

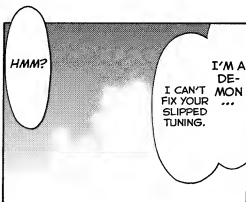
I
CAN'T
...

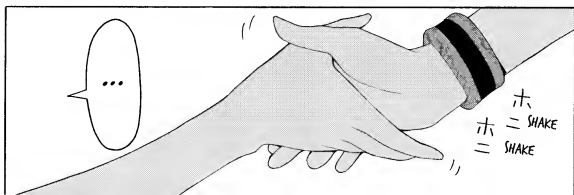
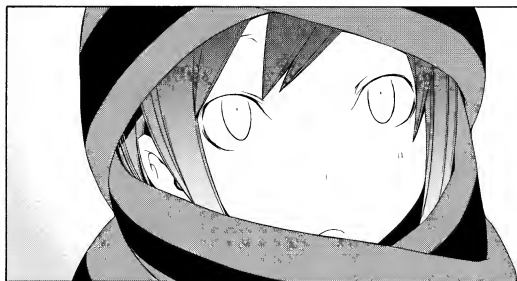
SNIFF

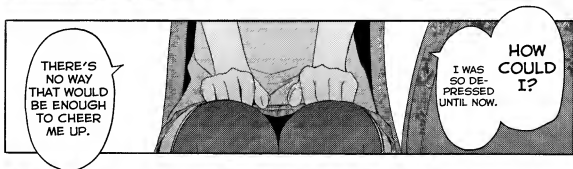
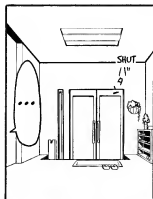
FWOO

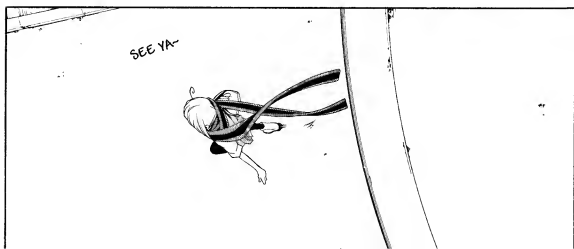


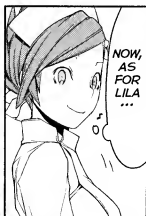
















SHE'S
SO CHEER-
FUL AND
HONEST.



HIME-
CHAN
SURE
IS CUTE.



STOP!
THAT'S
SO DAN-
GER-
OUS!

SIGH

IT'S USE-
FUL FOR
KEEPING
COOL IN
THE HEAT.



I KNOW,
DON'T
WORRY.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
BE SO
DELICATE
WITH ME.

HUP.

OH,
BUT
YOU'RE
CUTE,
TOO,
LILA!

I
KNOW.



SHE
SURE
IS.
IT'S LIKE
I HAVE
ANOTH-
ER CUTE
LITTLE
SISTER.

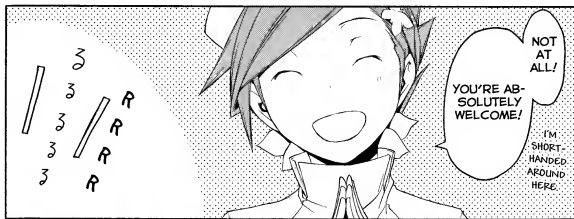


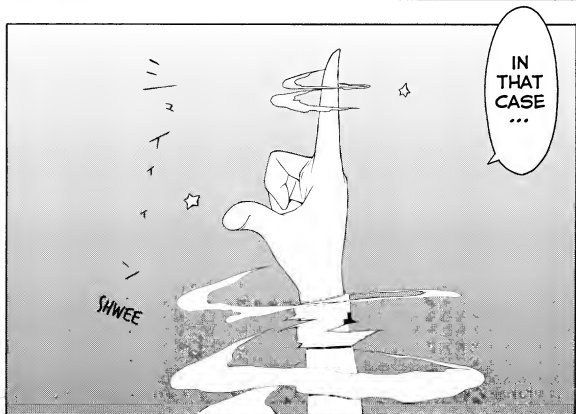
I LOOK
FORWARD
...TO
GETTING
TO KNOW
HER
MORE.

IF SHE'S
A LITTLE
SISTER
TO YOU,
THEN
THAT
MAKES
HER ONE
TO ME,
TOO.



DOES
THAT
MEAN
...







の
= TAP
の
= TAP



HMM
...

YEAH.

THAT'S
RIGHT?
HIME'S DE-
PRESSED,
HUH?



TMD
TMD

000



I
KNOW
WHERE
SHE'S
COMING
FROM,
BUT
SOME
THINGS
JUST
CAN'T
BE
HELPED.



SHE
SEEMED
MORE
PERKY
THAN
ANYONE.

I
SEE
...



I KNOW
HOW SHE
FEELS,
BUT THERE'S
NOTHING
SHE CAN DO
ABOUT IT.

RIGHT?









I
ASSURE
YOU,
THERE
ARE NO
TRICKS.

50TH NIGHT SONG OF FLOWERS (EPILOGUE) END



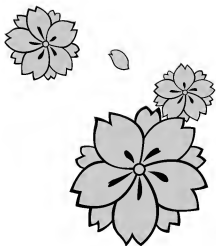
**NO GIM-
MICKS.**



To be Continued III

**YOZAKURA
QUARTET**

10





HOW WAS
I ABLE
TO FLY?

THANKS TO
KOTODAMA.



PHEW...

か
ぽ
ぽ



THE LAND-
LORD MIGHT
JUST NOT
KNOW THE
GOING RATE...

WELL,
THE PAY'S
PRETTY
GOOD. I
GUESS
I'LL STICK
AROUND
A LITTLE
LONGER.

ぽ
ぽ
ぽ



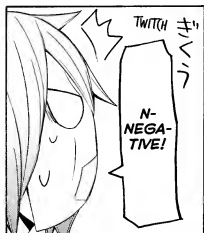
WEIRDOS
EVERY-
WHERE...

SHEESH.
IT'S NOT
EASY BEING
LIVE-IN
SECURITY.

ぐ
わ
ん
ぐ
わ
ん
ぐ
わ
ん

よざかる!
YOZAQUART!

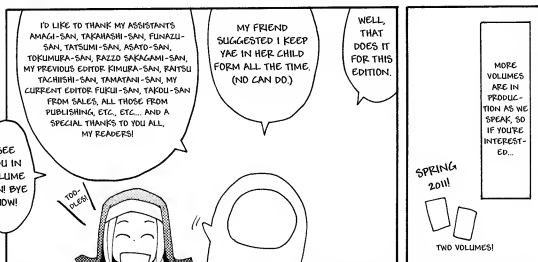
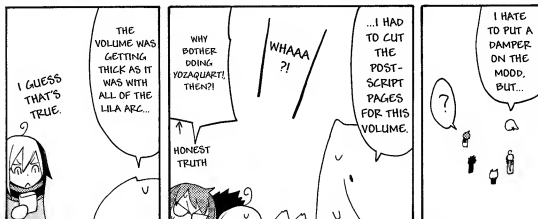
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ち
や
CLACK







POSTSCRIPT MANGA



Yozakura Quartet 9

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